

Israel restricting Palestinian education

JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian academics and human rights groups in the occupied territories accused Israel on Wednesday of breaching the right to education by restricting the entry of university students from Gaza to the West Bank. The West Bank's Bir Zeit University and the human rights groups the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law and Al Haq said in a statement Israel has increasingly refused to issue Gaza students permits to stay in the West Bank in the past month. "By restricting the freedom of movement of Gaza residents through the imposition of an oppressive and arbitrary permit system, the authorities are seriously compromising the right of Gaza students to obtain an education at the institution of their choice," the statement said. Israel requires West Bank and Gaza residents to obtain special permits from its military governments in both areas to enter or pass through what it claims as its territory. It says the regulations, in effect for several years, were part of security measures aimed at protecting its citizens from attacks by militants.

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Mandela announces major concession

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela announced major concessions Wednesday to an opposition alliance in hopes of avoiding a boycott of national elections and reducing the threat of civil war. "We must treat the threat of civil war seriously. That is why we have gone out of our way to make these concessions," Mr. Mandela told a news conference after an emergency meeting of the group's policy-making national executive committee. The ANC dropped its demand for a single-ballot system in the April 20-28 election to end white-minority Monday to approve the decision. Mr. Mandela said. This marks an important concession to the opposition Freedom Alliance, a coalition of anti-ANC white and black groups who have vowed to boycott the election and raised threats of political violence. The alliance has said voters should cast two ballots in April — one for a national parliament and another for regional legislatures. This would give small, regionally based parties such as those represented in the alliance a chance of establishing power-bases in their areas of support.

Strike grips Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a youth during clashes on Wednesday as a strike in memory of a Palestinian closed down the Gaza Strip, witnesses said. Troops opened fire on stone-throwers in the town of Rafah, which borders Egypt, and where a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was gunned down on Friday. He died of his wounds on Monday. Youngsters burnt tyres on deserted roads and pelted rocks at Israeli military patrols across the Strip on Wednesday as shops and businesses closed in line with the strike call from the front. One Palestinian was shot dead and 12 wounded by soldiers during protests in Gaza Tuesday.

All-Palestinian Bank to open March 15

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Commercial Bank of Palestine, the first All-Palestinian bank on the occupied West Bank, will begin trading on March 15 with a capital of \$14 million, businessman Subel Gideon said Wednesday. The headquarters will be in Ramallah with branches in Gaza and Jericho to open once autonomy begins, said Mr. Gideon, one of a dozen Palestinian investors in the venture, which has Israeli approval. The 38-year-old from Ramallah, who has just married Yasser Arafat's adopted daughter, said the bank has obtained a \$4 million loan from the French government for private sector industrial projects.

Sudan denies attacking civilians in south

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government Wednesday denied reports that its forces were attacking civilian targets in southern Sudan. Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Saleem Abu Saleh told reporters here that the government had received message from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and French figures he did not identify calling for a halt to the alleged attacks in the rebel-held south. But Mr. Abu Saleh said the appeals were based on "incorrect information about a government attack on civilians in southern Sudan." He said the battles there involved either rebel factional fighting or clashes between rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and army mobile logistical units trying to defend themselves.

Barak term extended

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government decided on Wednesday to keep Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak as army commander for a fourth year, ending rumours he would be appointed defence minister. "The government decided unanimously to extend Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak's term as chief-of-staff," a cabinet statement said. He will stay in the job until Jan. 1, 1995.

Jail for woman who cut off man's penis

FRANKFURT-AM-DE (AFP) — A woman who cut off the penis of her drink partner with a bread knife because he allegedly made her a sexual proposition was sentenced to three years in prison Wednesday. The court found Heidemar Siebke, 31, guilty of mutilating Hans Kampioni, 50, while in a state of intoxication but acquitted her of attempted murder. After cutting off his penis she tried to set fire to the apartment. Doctors were unable to sew back the man's severed sex organ, which was preserved in formaldehyde as court evidence of the events of October 1992.

Jordan, PLO say way clear for close interaction, report 'concrete steps'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ended two days of high-level talks here Wednesday indicating that the road has been cleared for closer coordination in the Middle East peace process.

The two sides also announced a broad outline of measures to protect the interests of both parties and decided to revive largely inactive committees dealing with various aspects of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The talks followed comments by His Majesty King Hussein that the level of coordination was not of the level desired by Jordan, and the Kingdom would be in a better position to help strengthen the Palestinian negotiating stand if there was closer cooperation.

Information Minister Jawad Anani, one of Jordan's key players in the peace process, underlined the headway Jordan and the PLO made in the latest meetings in removing suspicions and distrust.

The Amman meetings, he said, "came at the right time... people are serious and there are no inhibitions, no sensitivi-

ties. They have a specific set of goals they want to achieve and they went for it."

"We have agreed to continue to develop our coordination framework in light of developments, including the agreement in Tabaa," Dr. Anani said, referring to the ongoing Israel-PLO autonomy negotiations in the Egyptian Red Sea resort.

"We have taken certain concrete steps in the areas of economic cooperation, management, administration, movement of people, on the issue of displaced persons, and also eventually refugees," Dr. Anani said. "The meeting was good in general, it was productive, we need to have more of these meetings."

A joint communique issued after the talks ended early Wednesday said the two sides "stressed that there should be a specific mechanism for coordination and cooperation in the peace process... based on constant consultations and exchange of information in the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the peace process."

The communique, read out PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, said the two sides "expressed satisfaction with the atmos-

phere of understanding that prevailed during the meetings and which should enhance the coordination process... to reach to its utmost level. (This should be done) in all aspects and areas stemming from a point where it comes as a realistic response to the special historic relations" between Jordanians and Palestinians "and the (common) challenges they face."

Mr. Abed Rabbo, head of the PLO's information department and a close adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat did not answer questions. Officials said the PLO delegation, headed by political affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi, was pressed for time and rushed to the airport immediately after the joint statement was read out.

The joint statement said: "The higher committee reviewed the dimensions of the next phase and plans for joint action to deal with the expected developments in a manner that guarantees the formulation of a unified Arab plan which will ensure the achievement of Arab objectives and hopes and lead to a just, comprehensive and permanent peace based on international legitimacy and

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No Israel-PLO deal yet on police; progress in other areas

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Wednesday sent conflicting assessments of their negotiations over the implementation of their Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

Israel said the two sides were close to an agreement on a proposed police force to patrol areas expected to come under Palestinian autonomy.

But the PLO sources said the two sides remained apart and could not agree over the size of the proposed police force.

However, significant headway was reported in the negotiations over the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians.

The PLO demanded a 10,000-strong police force, while Israel proposed a force of 6,000 for Gaza and Jericho, said a source close to the PLO delegation.

PLO negotiators also pressed for the release of all 14,000 Palestinian prisoners before

July 13, the date set by the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord for elections to be held in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel objected to the creation of a 10,000-strong police force because most of the personnel would be recruited from Palestinians living abroad, the source said.

Such a force could mean the return of 25,000 Palestinians to the occupied territories if the policemen's families were included, the Israeli delegation argued.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel will block any mass return by diaspora Palestinians to the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"If the Palestinian leadership breaks the understanding we have allowed Palestinians to settle on the Gaza Strip and in the Jericho region we will not hesitate to take adequate measures," Mr. Peres told parliament.

He noted that under the security deal signed in Cairo a

week ago Israel could stop anyone from entering the autonomous areas.

Mr. Peres added that it was unrealistic to expect a mass return of refugees from the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars to Gaza, which is seriously overcrowded already, or to the tiny enclave of Jericho.

"It would be stupid to think that the security arrangements drawn up in Cairo for the Gaza-Jericho (border) crossings could grant the Palestinians any sort of a right of return," Mr. Peres said, knocking down claims by right-wing opposition figures.

The chief Israel delegate here said the negotiators were close to agreeing on the composition and duties of the Palestinian police force.

It is almost achieved," Major General Amnon Shahak said when he arrived for the third day of this round in the talks.

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NATO stands by Sarajevo deadline, denies ambiguity

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) reiterated warnings Wednesday that a Feb. 21 deadline for the demilitarisation of Sarajevo would be enforced by air strikes if necessary and denied any differences with U.N. peacekeepers over the meaning of "control" of Serb heavy weapons around the city.

"There will be no extension of the deadline," a NATO spokesman said, referring to the midnight Sunday limit for the two factions to give up their weapons or face NATO air strikes.

He was speaking after a regular meeting of the ambassadors to NATO of the 16 member countries, who fixed the deadline on Feb. 9 after being asked by the United Nations following the massacre of 68 people in a Sarajevo market.

One NATO source said: "NATO is firmly committed to

act if necessary, we hope the Bosnian Serbs will conform with our decision."

The NATO ultimatum called for the warring factions either to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo or put them under U.N. control by Sunday midnight, or face NATO air attacks.

"We will decide Monday if heavy arms are in fact under (U.N.) control or withdrawn beyond the 20-kilometre zone. Those are the two elements of the Feb. 9 decision: we have not changed them in any way," the source added.

In Belgrade, a Bosnian Serb leader said he was "very unhappy" with a U.N. inquiry that failed to determine the origin of mortar fire that killed 68 people in a Sarajevo market 10 days ago.

"We are very unhappy with the results because the U.N. commission of experts has not carried out a detailed or in-

depth investigation," Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the "parliament" of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic, was quoted as saying by Tanjug news agency.

Canadian Colonel Michel Gauthier, who headed the five-member commission of inquiry, told the press in Zagreb Wednesday that the mortar bomb that also wounded 200 other people on Feb. 5 could have been fired by either side, besieging Serbs or defending Muslims.

In other developments: — U.N. peacekeepers are seeking up to 3,000 extra troops to help demilitarise Sarajevo but are also preparing for possible air strikes against besieging Serbs, a U.N. spokesman said.

— Britain and other European nations with peacekeeping forces in Bosnia expressed alarm at the United Nations

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RAMADAN IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday hosted an iftar in honour of members of the royal family, the prime minister, and ministers, the speaker and members of the Upper House of Parliament, Arab and Muslim ambassadors and charge d'affaires in Amman, the chiefs of the Cessation Court and Higher Court of Justice, Amman mayor and the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

The iftar was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Ben Talal, the personal representative of His



Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Hashem Ben Al Hussein, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and Prince Ali Ben Navef, the King's private chamberlain. Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday held an iftar banquet for members of the royal family and wives of government officials at Raghdan Palace.

Arafat accuses Israel of facilitating arms trade in West Bank and Gaza

PLO leader voices concern about planting seeds of 'another Afghanistan,' urges international community to intervene

'Many difficult problems remain to be tackled with Israelis'

By Wafa Amr in Tunis

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat accused the Israelis on Wednesday of planning to spark a Palestinian civil war and to "turn the occupied territories into another Afghanistan" by facilitating arms trade.

Mr. Arafat expressed worry about arms pouring in the occupied territories and grave concern over the possible repetition of the "Afghan scenario" inside the occupied territories after Israeli troops pull out from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Contending that the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) takeover from Israel in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho will be fielded with mines, Mr. Arafat said Israel was trying to spill oil on fire by facilitating the purchase of arms by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, which have already been used against Palestinians to disrupt stability.

"There is a very terrible trade of arms going on under the auspices of some Israeli officers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, smuggling and

trading," Mr. Arafat said in a joint interview with the Jordan Times and the London-based Guardian.

"In my opinion, this is being seriously and wickedly planned. They know that these weapons, while they are withdrawing, will not be used against them... then against whom will they be used?" Mr. Arafat asked in the interview conducted at his office here.

Leaning closer to a desk covered by huge stacks of files and papers, with a serious and worried look in his tired eyes, the PLO chairman, raising his voice to a pitch, asked: "Are they imagining there will be another Afghanistan amongst the Palestinians? This is a very dangerous game they are playing."

PLO officials have privately expressed fear of a civil war if Palestinians did not restrain themselves and continued to purchase arms and solve their political differences through violence. The PLO-Israeli accord signed in September has caused serious rifts among Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat was also challenged by his own Fatah group,

the backbone of the PLO, which is also divided over the accord. Immediately after the accord, three Fatah leaders were assassinated in Gaza. Assad Saftawi, Fatah leader in Gaza, assassinated in October, was Arafat's aide and personal friend. The assassinations, especially Saftawi's, alarmed Mr. Arafat and caused him great sorrow. He vowed to do his utmost to put an end to inter-Palestinian fighting, PLO officials believed. Palestinians working as agents to the Israeli intelligence were behind the assassinations. The recent distribution of arms in the occupied territories, they fear, might lead Palestinians to settle political and personal disputes through bloodshed and violence.

"Some of these weapons have been used against stability in the occupied territories, and I have received many complaints from our citizens, from the masses against what is happening," Mr. Arafat said.

He said the arms "are falling into the hands of everybody (collaborators, Hamas, the PLO), they are being made available to everybody, and at

different prices. The price is not important, it is the policy behind it that is dangerous."

The PLO leader said his organisation discovered the Israeli role in facilitating arms sales immediately after the signing of the September self-rule accord. "The sales have accelerated in recent weeks," he said.

Asked whether he was sure Israeli officers were actually involved in the affairs, he said firmly: "Do you think there is a mutiny among Israeli officers? This game is going on with their help, and this is not a joke."

The PLO chairman was obviously unhappy with what he sees as the passive role of the United States and the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, particularly concerning this issue. He said he had officially informed them and the Israelis of the situation and cautioned them against the consequences.

Mr. Arafat dismissed the possibility that any Arab state opposing the self-rule accord

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House fails to end Faisal-Kreisha row

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputy Toujan Faisal Wednesday refused to accept an unconditional apology from fellow deputy, Jamal Kreisha, for insulting her and throwing an ashtray at her. Her stand ended a special one-hour closed-door session devoted to discussing the row and defusing it.

The three-day-old dispute, which now centres on a Faisal lawsuit against Mr. Kreisha for "insult, slander and assault," appeared bound to continue as Ms. Faisal declared that the special investigative session "failed to address the crux of the dispute — democracy and national unity."

"We paved the way to a peaceful democratic resolution inside the parliamentary dome. We, the deputies, were all on Ms. Faisal's side and pressed Mr. Kreisha to ready himself to apologise in the presence of his fellow deputies. But Ms. Faisal refused to accept the apology," House Speaker Taher Al Masri told the Jordan Times.

"I said I was willing to abide by the decision that my fellow deputies took provided that we then make a precedent to solve future disputes of the sort," Ms. Faisal told the Jordan Times after the session.

Ms. Faisal said she told the session: "I will accept an apology from Mr. Kreisha provided that should I or any other deputy ever decide to swear at and throw anything at another deputy all I or whoever did it would have to do is say I am sorry and the issue will be dealt with."

According to Ms. Faisal, her fellow deputies refused to entertain her proposal.

One Amman deputy denied that Ms. Faisal presented such an alternative. "In any case such is not an alternative," he said.

"It seems that Ms. Faisal is no longer interested in an apology but wants to have Mr. Kreisha's immunity against prosecution withdrawn from him," Mr. Masri said.

"It was simple. Mr. Kreisha said he would apologise and she refused his offer of an apology," said Deputy Abdul Karim Kabarti.

Mr. Kreisha, speaking to the Jordan Times for the first time since the dispute began last Saturday, said "I showed my readiness to abide the decision of Parliament. She refused. So there is nothing more I could do."

Wednesday's session was meant to resolve the dispute before the lawsuit filed by Ms.

Sales tax law moved to Financial Committee

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday referred to its Financial Committee a controversial sales draft tax law despite opposition from some deputies who urged the draft legislation be rejected outright.

The government presented the draft legislation to the House as "an important part of the social and economic reform programme which will enable Jordan to receive foreign aid... maintain the stability of the dinar and build the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves."

It described the sales tax as part of the tax reform programme, and said it would encourage local production and exports, and investment and would "achieve more social justice," through protecting limited income citizens by exempting all basic goods and services from the new tax.

The government said the new legislation would replace the consumption tax which was introduced in 1992 and remove all its "negative aspects which appeared when it was implemented."

But the government's justifications for introducing the sales tax was rejected by Islamic Action Front (IAF) and other deputies who argued the draft law would increase the

tax burden and raise the cost of living for limited income people.

"The suffering of Jordanian citizens was awaiting measures to alleviate it, not to worsen it," said IAF Deputy Abdullah Akaleh, proposing that the House reject the draft law.

Dr. Akaleh said tax reform should come in the form of a comprehensive programme so that the House can assess tax regulations in their entirety.

Describing as untrue the government's statement that the new legislation would replace the consumption tax, Dr. Akaleh said the new goods and services that would be taxed under the new law would make it a new tax.

"The draft law is a requirement of the International Monetary Fund... and we understand that some countries cannot say no to the fund," but the government should invest democracy for the benefit of the people and "take cover behind the decision of the House which rejects the tax," said Dr. Akaleh.

President of the Financial Committee Ali Abul Ragheb said the government was committed to introducing the tax, pointing to talks Jordan is planning to open with the Paris Club of creditors next month and the consequences on the

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Senate, House speakers welcome Yemeni leaders' reconciliation efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — The speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Wednesday welcomed the reconciliation efforts spearheaded by Jordan and aimed at preserving Yemen's unity and ending disputes among its leaders. Yemen's leaders are scheduled to meet in Amman Sunday to sign a document that would ensure the preservation of the Arabian peninsula nation's unity.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi said Jordan firmly believes in unity among the Arab countries and is keen on preserving unity among individual Arab states and ending differences among their leaders for the sake of the ultimate goal of pan-Arab unity.

Jordan is happy to host a reconciliation meeting between the leaders of North and South Yemen to help the two sides achieve their aspired goal, said Mr. Lawzi.

House Speaker Taher Masri said that Yemen's unity, achieved three years ago, gave new impetus to efforts for enhancing solidarity among Arab states.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to bring about reconciliation among Yemeni leaders stems from his keenness to preserve Yemen's unity and bolster solidarity among Arab countries.

Voicing parliament's welcome of the Yemeni leaders in Amman, Mr. Masri stressed that the unity of Yemen was of concern to all Arabs, noting that Jordan would continue its efforts to bolster this unity.

Princess Basma says scouts' guides' production project to open

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday announced here that the Jordanian Society for Scouts and Girl Guides will soon open its first production project to ensure income for the society's activities and programmes.



The Princess, who is the society president, said that the scouts and guides have always spearheaded charity efforts and initiatives to serve the country under all circumstances.

Addressing a rally of scouts and guides involved in the charity campaign in the Irbid region, Princess Basma gave no details about the society's production project, but noted that the proceeds would help the society attain its goals.

Thanking the scouts for their current contributions in raising funds for the needy, she said that the country takes pride in such efforts aimed at serving the underprivileged.

The Princess started her tour in Mafrqa Governorate where she inspected the progress in the charity campaign which started at the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Addressing a gathering of children involved in the campaign, the Princess said that the national effort was part of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development's (QAF) work to stimulate solidarity among the people of Jordan.

"Through you and through your continued efforts charity work can be done every year, and through your role and efforts the campaign is certain to achieve its goals and objectives," said the Princess.

Altogether 3,200 children are involved in the month-long fund-raising campaign in the regions of Irbid, Mafrqa, Bani Kananah, Kourah, Northern Jordan Valley, Ajloun, Jerash and Ramtha.

The Princess was accompanied on the tour by governors and heads of municipal councils.

UNESCO to focus on 3 education targets

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is concentrating its programmes on adult education, the eradication of illiteracy and basic education over the next two years, according to Abdul Qader Al Atrash, UNESCO regional director in Amman.

Speaking at a meeting with Minister of Education Khaled Omari and several UNESCO officials, Mr. Atrash said that the UNESCO office has prepared a programme of 4,000 teaching hours for first to fourth grade students — the basic education stage for children.

In reviewing the Ministry of Education's activities and cooperation with the UNESCO office, Dr. Omari said that the ministry was eager to maximise its benefits from the UNESCO programmes in order to promote the educational system in Jordan.

Munther Al Masri, the ministry's secretary general, outlined the way in which the ministry can benefit from UNESCO programmes and the sources of funds to finance this project. Wajih Al Farah, director of research and development, said that the ministry was preparing six educational projects to be submitted to UNESCO for joint cooperation and to secure the organisation's assistance for their implementation.

According to Dr. Farah, the programmes include disciplines on education and democracy in Jordan, a national policy on education research, a symposium on the future of education in the Kingdom, development of educational management and a regional seminar on developing technology education in the 21st century.



Minister of Education Khaled Al Omari Wednesday meets with UNESCO Regional Director Abdul Qader Al Atrash. Present at the meeting were several UNESCO and Ministry of Education officials (Petra photo)

2 brothers killed over land dispute

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Mafrqa brothers were killed Tuesday evening and their two brothers were seriously injured after their half-brother attempted to kill the four of them following a family argument, police and civil defence reports said.

The suspect, identified only as A.A.R., told police that he went to the land that is owned by all the brothers in Um Al Kharoub town in Mafrqa, accompanied by his own 18-year-old full brother.

Upon arrival at the land they discovered that their four half-brothers had removed the fence that divided their share of the land.

A.A.R. told police the six of them started arguing about the matter, and when the argument became heated A.A.R. drew a gun and started shooting at his half-brothers.

A civil defence official told the Jordan Times that when officials arrived on the scene, two of A.A.R.'s half-brothers were already dead.

Police said they arrested the suspect and said he confessed to killing his two half-brothers and the attempted killing of the other two. They also seized the licensed gun he used in the shooting.

Students' views on environment to be sounded through questionnaire

AMMAN (Petra) — As of the beginning of March, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will start distributing a questionnaire to students in Jordan to sound out their views about ways of nature conservation and the protection of the environment in Jordan.

Fawzi Ekour, head of the ministry's Environment and Information Department, said students from schools, community colleges and universities would be asked to give their views about the environment and propose means for providing protection against pollution.

The ministry will randomly select samples of students in different parts of the country to collect their views in this regard, said Mr. Ekour.

The students in Jordan constitute nearly 30 per cent of the total population, and their views are deemed important to help the ministry draw up plans for environment-related cultural programmes, added Mr. Ekour.

In all, he said, 5,000 questionnaires will be distributed in this campaign and the students will be picked up from communities in the badia, rural and urban regions of Jordan.

It is hoped, said Mr. Ekour, that the results of the survey would also contribute to the formation of national policies on the socio-economic development in the country.

He said that the ministry's survey is part of a general campaign currently underway.

Ministry to submit health insurance plan to government, parliament — Malhas

ZARQA (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Wednesday said that the ministry was proceeding with plans to introduce a national health insurance plan as soon as possible.



Abdul Rahim Malhas

The ministry plans to submit a draft plan for such a scheme to the government and Parliament towards the end of April, said Dr. Malhas.

He said that the ministry would ask that the plan be given priority in view of its important benefits to all sectors of the public and in compliance with directives by His Majesty King Hussein.

Dr. Malhas, who was touring health facilities in Zarqa Governorate, opened several health centres and announced that the health ministry plans to set up accommodations for nurses employed in the Zarqa

currently under construction.

He said the new Yajouz Hospital will accommodate 100 beds in the first stage, plus 50 beds in the maternity ward.

The minister said that the JD 5 million hospital project was due to be completed by the beginning of 1995.

Dr. Malhas also toured the Yajouz Hospital construction site and listened to a briefing on the progress of the work by the contractors. He urged them to speed up the work because the hospital was much needed by the local community.

Dr. Malhas stopped at Hittin refugee camp and listened to the residents' demands for improved health services.

The minister was briefed on the medical services there by district Governor Mislch Tarawneh.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ☆ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (6:30 p.m.-midnight).
- ☆ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais (Tel. 720902).
- ☆ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Fanun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- ☆ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ☆ Film entitled "Driving Miss Daisy" on Thursday at the American Center at 2:30 p.m. (99 minutes).
- ☆ Field trip organised by the Friends of Archaeology on Friday to the eastern part of the Kingdom (to include Umm Sarab, Deir Al Kaf, Sama Al Sarhan, and Jawa). Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot by bus or private cars.
- ☆ Book exhibition at the University of Jordan.
- ☆ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ☆ Drama in Arabic entitled "Flee From Death" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:30 p.m.
- ☆ Theatrical performances for children at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Palestinian T.V. broadcasts could start airing in June

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In June Palestinians in the Middle East could witness the birth of their own television station. If all goes well, founders say, a 200-member crew will start a four-hour daily broadcast from Ramallah in the West Bank.

At the outset, grouping qualified Palestinian personnel from all over the world, the television will air several social and cultural programmes over four hours. Soon afterwards the founders expect that the broadcasts will be developed to form a regular T.V. station with special programmes in English, French and Hebrew.

The project, which is estimated to cost around JD 50 million, is being partially financed (equipment and training) by various Arab and European countries. The French government has donated an 18 million F.F. mobile studio, and several European countries including

Britain, Norway, Denmark and Spain have shown willingness to provide other equipment and training.

Basem Abu Sumayyah, co-founder of the proposed Palestinian broadcasting station, and one of the strongest candidates to be the first person to appear on the station's broadcast, said that the crew will be ready to start if all "obstacles" are removed.

The right of the Palestinians to a frequency and to obtain membership in the European Broadcasting Union were cited by Mr. Abu Sumayyah as the main political and technical difficulties that stand in the way of starting broadcasts soon.

At present, several Palestinian teams are receiving training in various countries. One of these teams, comprising 24 trainees, is currently attending a special training course at the Information Training Centre at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. The one-month course focuses mainly on the basic principles and overall policies of administering and broadcasting a channel.

In March a second team will be heading for Egypt for another course. More than 100 experts and cadres in international news agencies and media corporations will also be ready to join their colleagues in Jerusalem, where the offices are based, and in Ramallah, where the studios are stationed.

According to Mr. Sumayyah, all the staff will be ready to go to the territories "when the broadcasting starts."

"We are almost ready," Mr. Abu Sumayyah told the Jordan Times. "The information and technical preparations are almost completed."

According to Mr. Abu Sumayyah, a broadcast journalist with Radio Monte Carlo, the television station will be based on democratic principles and "will be open to all levels of the society and will employ modern techniques and progressive methods in reaching the public."

Over 1m students enrolled in current school year

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of school students in Jordan for the scholastic year 1993/94 stands at 1,235,573, of whom 630,660 are males and 604,907 are females, according to a statistical report issued by the Ministry of Education's Researches and Development Department.

The report said the number of school teachers in the Kingdom totals 55,216 and the number of schools stands at 3,917, of which 1,083 are for male students, 933 for females and 1,901 are mixed.

The report also said that there are 681 kindergartens in the Kingdom, two only government kindergartens while the rest run by the private sector.

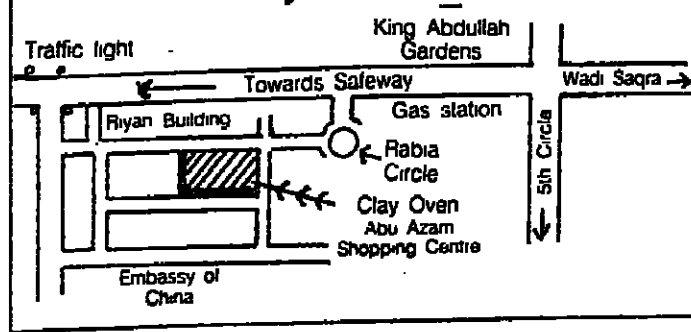
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Habits never die easily

THE ISRAELI government is making it a habit to shift deliberately the centre of gravity in the peace talks from one Arab front to the other. What started out to be an avowed interest in moving ahead with the Palestinian track soon gave way to the Syrian front. After the Israeli-PLO bilateral talks stalled for a while, over differences on control of borders and the size of the Jericho area, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin started to shift his attention to Damascus after declaring that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad holds the key to the entire peace process in the Middle East.

But the initial euphoria ushered in by the Clinton-Assad summit in Geneva in mid-January soon dissipated when Israel once again started shifting its focus towards the Palestinian track.

Meanwhile, the PLO had to make more and more concessions on its demands to keep its negotiations with Israel going. And when Syria's turn was up again on the occasion of the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington Tuesday, Mr. Rabin rushed to make comments that were anything but comforting. Gone were the references this time to the pivotal role of Damascus, and in vent the expression of big disappointments. The alleged Syrian unwillingness to control the Hizbollah faction in southern Lebanon, something which Mr. Rabin interpreted as proof of President Assad's wavering on his desire to see genuine peace in the area. It appears as though the Israelis wanted to drop the Syrian sector once again for an additional period of time till they have concluded full agreement with Chairman Yasser Arafat. Since in fact, the PLO's negotiations with Israel are going forward at full speed on all fronts, be they political, security or economic, we wonder whether a breakthrough on the Palestinian front might not be exploited by the Israelis as yet additional leverage against the remaining Arab parties.

Such manoeuvring by the Rabin government is not conducted in a vacuum. It is possible, for instance, that the Israelis may truly be unable to cope with two serious peace negotiations simultaneously. When one track is on and getting warmer, the other track has to be put on the backburner. On the other hand, the Rabin government enjoys only a slim majority in the Knesset, and the Israeli public opinion is also highly polarised on the peace issue. But, even taking all these factors into consideration, there is no real justification for the Israelis to pursue a divide-and-rule policy with the Arabs if they genuinely want a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Lack of complete and in-depth coordination between the Arab parties to the peace process is not helping matters either. In spite of repeated calls for genuine cooperation and coordination among the Arab states, the goal still eludes us. Unfortunately, more rhetoric than substance appears to engulf all Arab efforts to put their own house in order. This is truly what enables Mr. Rabin to stall and procrastinate, not just his own internal consideration. The man is simply predicating his policies on the proposition that digesting one Arab party at a time would be infinitely more profitable for his country.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday called on the Arab World to resist a kind of peace that would be imposed on it for the detriment of the fate of the future generations. Peace is only desired when it encompasses the pure sense of achieving justice, and equality and ensures respect for the nation's dignity, said the daily. Criticising those who advocate peace at any cost, the paper said that these elements seem to be ready to oppose the idea of any confrontation with the enemy that continues to occupy our land, and try to paint a picture of the imposed peace as if it is a victory for the Arabs over their Zionist enemy and the United States, the main ally of the Jewish state. While seeking peace, added the daily, one must not expose our future to danger and destruction, but rather seek to regain our rights and protect our interests. If this cannot be done now, let it be done at a later date in the future.

Loud voices that fall on lazy ears

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Clearly, teachers play an essential role in the success or failure of the educational process, from kindergarten to university. Their command of the subjects they teach, their ability to convey sophisticated material lucidly and effectively, the philosophical or methodological approach they adopt, their commitment to their calling, their own personality (i.e. sense of humour, civility, patience, charm, charisma, etc.), and their familiarity with their students' strengths and weaknesses both as a group and as individuals are all factors which extremely affect their performance, positively or negatively.

This we all know, of course, and we all agree upon. However, there are two peculiar practices, quite widespread among teachers in the Arab World, which many may not know and which many may not agree with me upon, but which I believe to constitute a major educational impediment and hazard. The first is speaking with a loud voice in class, and the second is speaking slowly. In most cases, the two occur simultaneously — i.e. teachers who speak with a loud voice tend to speak slowly, and vice versa.

I first became aware of the first aspect of the problem over ten years ago at the very outset of my university teaching career. It was September and the weather was relatively hot, especially during the mid-day lectures. Naturally, we opened the door and the windows. Increasingly, I found the students and myself constantly distracted by voices of other fellow instructors coming through the door and the windows, some from adjacent rooms but others (believe it or not) from relatively distant buildings. During most classes, we had to close the door and windows and suffocate. Alternatively, we had to open and shut them every few minutes. It was unbearable. Notice that I am not talking here about echoes of voices or whispers, but voices louder than mine in my own lecture room. At times I would ask myself: "Is this person addressing his students, or is he addressing the whole neighbourhood?" There were times when I had to ask some colleagues, many of whom reacted with surprise, to lower their voices a bit.

Over the years, I made it a point to listen to teachers at our public schools and at the various universities where I taught, and discovered (on the basis of my own statistics) that at least

seven out of every 10 teachers in our society speak with an exceptionally loud voice. I have heard many of them say, proudly: "I lose my voice by the end of the day trying to make my students understand." No kidding!

The same semester, the second aspect of the problem was made known to me. Periodically, I happened to exchange view over my students' progress with a number of foreign colleagues, who happened to be native speakers of English and two spoke normally (as normal teachers do) in their classes. Several of them informed me that many of their students communicated to them the fact that they (the students) were unable to follow what they said (i.e. they spoke too fast) and that they were also unable to hear their voices clearly, even though these instructors spoke fluently and audibly enough. Some of the students told me the same thing. The said colleagues and myself thought a lot and discussed the issue several times, comparing notes and observations, and came up with the following.

"Language is like the air we breathe. It should fall softly on our ears and flow smoothly from our tongues. The voice of a teacher is not a bulldozer eating up a mountain but a gentle breeze in a May morning."

A major cause of this latter problem was, obviously, the noise coming from the nearby rooms and buildings. More importantly, however, it was also caused by the manner in which lectures were delivered and students were communicated with by the Arab colleagues and teachers spoken of above. Students in their classes got used to being addressed slowly (too slowly indeed) and with a loud voice. Naturally, they expected all teachers to address them in the same manner, and thus they found it difficult to follow and understand the minority who spoke to them relatively faster and with a relatively softer voice.

We know, of course, that good teachers must enunciate well

and must speak slower than most people in other professions and in other walks of life, but certainly not as slowly as the teachers I have been talking about. In some of the quick statistical studies I conducted frequently, I found out that a fluent speaker of English/Arabic utters up to 120 words per minute, a teacher with normal speed about 80 per minute, and the slow teacher I have been referring to as few as 25 words per minute. This (the latter) is too slow and unacceptable.

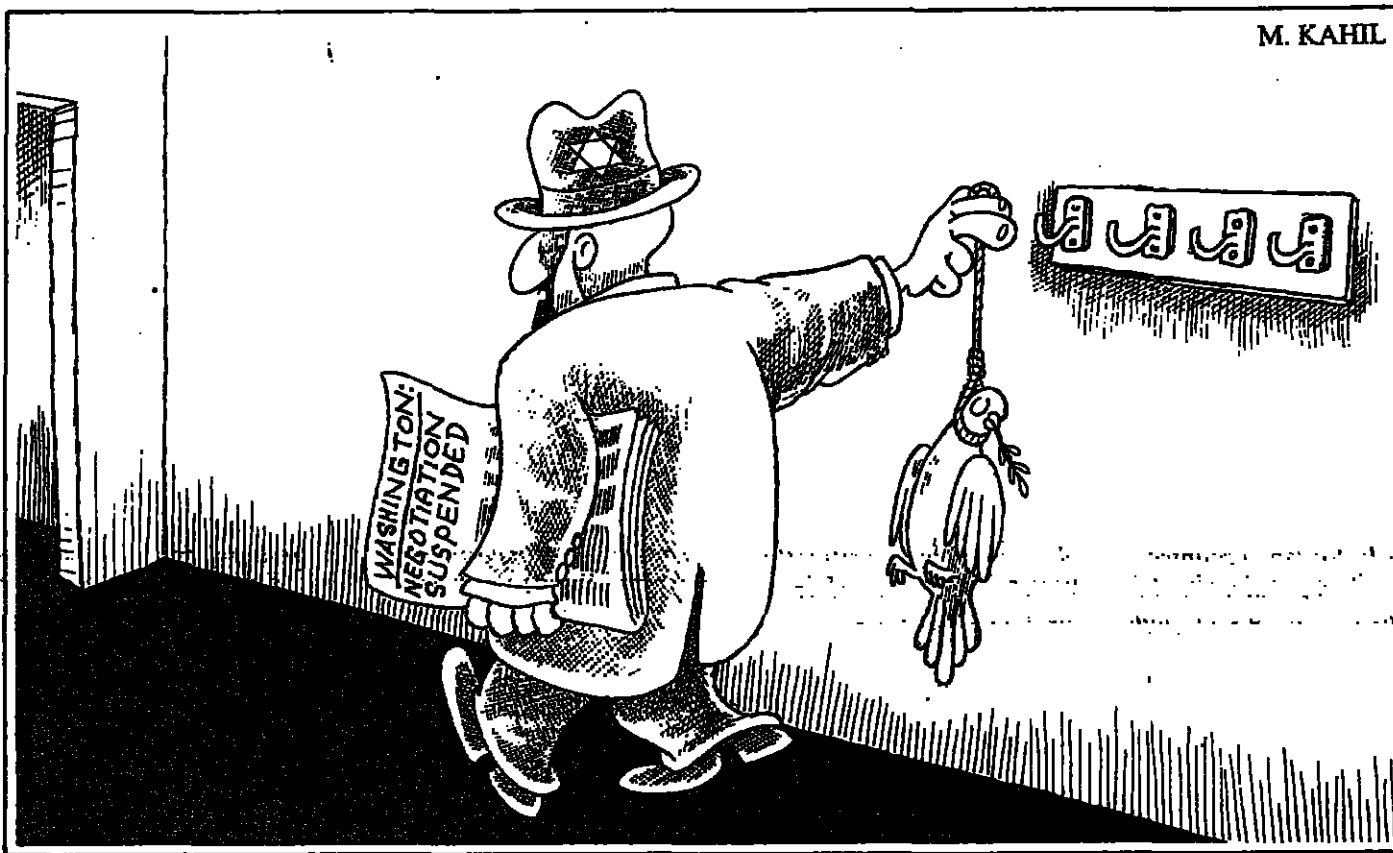
I once taught a listening course to 25 students of various backgrounds. I played them a cassette containing news from the Voice of America specifically designed for learners of English. 90 per cent of them found the pace, slow as it was, too quick for them and the volume (high as it was) too low. To be sure, part of the inability to understand is due to the fact that the students are learners of a foreign language. True. Much of it, however, stems from the unfortunate manner of speaking they have been exposed to, a manner which also affects Arab students in classes conducted in Arabic almost equally.

The implications of this two-fold problem are immensely worrisome. First of all, it accustoms our students not to exert any active listening or mental effort: the voice of the teacher will find its way to their ears if they bury their heads in the sand, and they will catch the words even if they take naps in between. This is bad for, as a result of years of being exposed to loud voices and slow utterances, they develop not only lazy ears but also lazy minds. Good education is supposed to sharpen the intellect, not dull and deaden it. We want our students to be attentive and alert the whole time; we want them to listen intensely, comprehend quickly and respond promptly. Unfortunately, this is not happening much of the time. Many of them, especially those in the more advanced years, are already suffering from what amounts to a hearing/understanding speaking handicap, as a result of an unintentionally destructive manner of speaking.

Language is like the air we breathe. It should fall softly on our ears and flow smoothly from our tongues. The voice of a teacher is not a bulldozer eating up a mountain but a gentle breeze in a May morning.

What we have is a real problem.

The writer is a professor of American literature at Yarmouk University.



Troubled peace process needs U.S. role

By James Zogby

DON'T be fooled by the applause that accompanied the Arafat-Peres signing of a partial agreement in Cairo last week. The Israeli-Palestinian peace process is in trouble and may founder without U.S. leadership.

The Sept. 13 signing of the Declaration of Principles (DoP) between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel did represent an historic breakthrough. While critics cited ambiguities in the accords, the important fact was that through the DoP, the Israelis and Palestinians recognised each other, setting the stage for meaningful negotiations to end their generations-old conflict.

Five months later, this negotiating process has yet to produce any concrete steps towards disengagement and peace. This inability to move forward is a function of problems inherent in the negotiating partners themselves: the weakness of both the Labour government of Israel and the PLO, and the asymmetry in the power relationship between them.

Simply put, Israel holds all the cards: it controls all of the Palestinian territory and all aspects of daily life within it. As a result, the negotiating process has been reduced to Palestinian reactions to Israeli positions, all of which are presented as "firm and non-negotiable." The only options available to the Palestinian negotiators are saying "no" and threatening to abort the process, or attempting to whittle away at the "firm" Israeli positions in an attempt to win some face-saving gestures.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said as much in a Feb. 11 interview when he observed: "These negotiations are with ourselves. The Palestinians don't have so much to give us."

So the fate of the process rests in Israeli goodwill and

the willingness of the Labour government to respect Palestinian rights and dignity, and to give the Palestinians enough concessions to maintain the integrity of the negotiations.

This leads to the second difficulty facing the peace process, which is the fragile hold Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Arafat believe the other has over his respective constituency. While both leaders are invested in the process and publicly recognise the need to support each other's position, the PLO — as Mr. Peres accurately expressed it — doesn't have so much to give; and Mr. Rabin's government seems to be afraid of giving more than it has already.

The product of this rather weak recipe has been an unpalatable stew.

In the days following the Cairo signing of a security agreement between Israel and the PLO, the Israeli press glowed with approval, saying that Israel got everything it wanted — control of air security arrangements — while making few and primarily symbolic concessions. The Arab and Palestinian press simultaneously chafed at the insult of what were described as the "humiliating agreements."

Palestinian and Israeli extremists sense this weakness, and have used violence and harsh rhetoric to further constrain their leaders by exacerbating tensions and preying on fears.

If left alone under this scenario, the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators cannot successfully complete an agreement which meets both parties' minimal needs. Outside assistance, and specifically U.S. leadership, will be required to give each side the strength and support it needs to move forward.

While the U.S. has until now refused to become engaged in the negotiating process and will not place pressures on Israel to make con-

cessions, there are still important actions the U.S. could take to greatly assist the parties and make the process work. Two such steps, outside of the negotiating process, come immediately to mind.

First, all parties have agreed that the question of Jerusalem will be left for final stage negotiations, and under the Madrid rules all parties agreed not to take unilateral steps to alter conditions on the ground during the negotiating process. Nevertheless, Israel fully acknowledges that it is constructing 15,000 new housing units (in addition to the 13,500 units begun by the Likud government which it is also completing) in what it describes as "Greater Jerusalem" — an expanded area stretching at some points more than 10 km from the historic city.

This building, coupled with the "security roads" and tunnels that Israel is constructing to connect settlements with each other and Jerusalem, is cutting the West Bank into several separate cantons, and serves as a daily reminder to the Palestinians of their lack of control over their daily lives and sharpens their fear of never gaining any semblance of control over their territory.

A firm and public U.S. position against the construction within the occupied territories would enhance the integrity of the process and help bring about support a just and lasting agreement.

Second, a continuing concern of the Palestinians has been their inability to gain direct access to foreign markets during the 27 years of Israeli occupation. A single U.S. announcement that the terms of the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement would apply to Palestinian products exported from the autonomous regions would go a long way towards assuring Palestinians that they can benefit economically from peace.

There is an irony in the

current process: In war the victor-vanquished equation applies, but in peace talks it is necessary that both parties emerge strengthened. As the Cairo accords make quite clear, negotiations within the context of the current Israeli-Palestinian relationship and the lack of outside support have served to enhance Israeli strength while further eroding the Palestinian position. But a weakened Palestinian authority will not and cannot produce peace.

Since both leaderships feel compelled to push the process forward, it may be possible for Israel to press the Palestinians to agree to their terms for autonomy and strip the Palestinians of even the trappings of sovereignty and dignity. But such an accord would be impossible for the PLO to sell to its already restless and angry constituency. In fact, such an agreement could only further weaken the PLO's position in the territories, and is a recipe for continued conflict.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid recognised this point when he suggested that forcing too many concessions from the Palestinians would weaken their ability to rally support for the negotiating process: "I think when we are talking about security matters, we have to twist the arms of our dialogue partners. But when we twist the arms, we have to be careful not to break them."

While Mr. Rabin may feel unable to offer more to the Palestinians, the U.S. can, without directly entering the negotiations, take steps that will open up the current impasse. It is a role we cannot afford not to play — it will help not only the Palestinians but the Israelis and the peace process itself.

The writer is President of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Signs of economic war!

U.S., Japan head into alien territories

By Lyndsay Griffiths
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa says his summit standstill with President Bill Clinton signals a more "grown-up" relationship but analysts see plenty more problems before the adults get along.

Mr. Hosokawa is right that Friday's agreement to disagree on trade marks a break from past practice of U.S. economic threats answered by 11th-hour Japanese compromise, but that does not open up new territory for the allies.

Indeed, analysts say the transition to equal partners may prove rocky as the two sides thrash out the bitter economic disputes they failed to iron out peacefully at the table.

"Japan is naturally resentful of big, powerful Uncle Sam telling it what to do but Tokyo needs to become a cooperative partner in world economic leadership if it now wants to play grown-ups," said Robert Blecker of American University.

While both sides would be happy to slough off the old lopsided relationship that dates back to World War II, the new post-cold war version may prove no better. For it is economics, not security ties, that Mr. Clinton wants put to rights, and Mr. Hosokawa will find it near impossible to engineer quick, meaningful change so long as he is squeezed by recession, restrained by bureaucrats, brow-beaten by big business and held captive by parliament.

"The U.S. will not tolerate mercantilism now the cold war is over but undoubtedly Japan faces a very hard transition," said Mr. Blecker. "Somehow the two countries have to compromise, and neither political system makes that terribly easy."

That point was driven home by the summit, when Mr. Clinton and Mr. Hosokawa failed to agree on how to cut Japan's \$60 billion trade surplus with Washington and give U.S. companies a better shot in Japan.

Mr. Hosokawa expressed regret over the impasse, but said it was better to disagree than to trumpet a bad deal full of innuendoes that would only lead to more hostility down the road.

"Until now, we refrained from speaking candidly and saying what was difficult to say," Mr. Hosokawa said Saturday. "In the past, Japan settled for ambiguous agreements with the United States that later became a source of misunderstanding."

"Now the bilateral rela-

tionship has turned into a mature relationship — one among grown-ups."

Clyde Prestowitz, head of the Economic Strategy Institute, says it is high time for the two allies to start anew. "We've had strains for at least 20 years and it has been put off and put off," he said. "Sure, the newspaper editorials and academic economists will wring their hands and perspire over the possibility of a trade war but, done properly, this reevaluation could eventually prove very constructive."

Partnership of equals or not, Mr. Clinton is already studying what retaliation to take in light of Friday's failure and has warned Tokyo that action might come sooner rather than later.

"We'll just have to examine what our next steps will be, and we'll be turning to that next week," Mr. Clinton said Saturday before Mr. Hosokawa had even stepped onto his plane home.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the Clinton administration has decided to impose sanctions against Japan on some imports.

Citing unnamed senior administration officials, the paper reported that no decision has been made on which products to target with the sanctions.

The paper reported that a senior official said the administration, which has not given up hope of an eventual settlement, was obliged to act firmly after the summit failure.

Mr. Clinton is holding the option cards close to his chest but experts say the strikes may range from tough new trade acts in Congress to more dumping challenges and antidumping suits.

Analyst Stephen Cohen says the best formula is a simple one: Do unto Japan what Japan does unto America.

Make Japanese companies meet the sort of rigorous and often spurious safety standards that Tokyo imposes, for instance on U.S. apple exporters. Or subject private lobbyists here to the same restrictions that American cheerleaders face in their effort to influence the political process in Japan.

"But the bottom line is that such retaliation and counter-retaliation could make things very nasty, especially when you have the world's two biggest economies going at it," he said. "This lack of agreement is potentially very serious: first for bilateral ties, next for financial markets and, last but not least, for the entire international trading system."

JWA gets new president — can he deliver?

By Mohammad Mashargah

The past week witnessed the election of Mu'nis Razzaz, a prominent Jordanian novelist and newspaper columnist, as president of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA).

"Indeed it was moderation that won the election held Friday and it is extremism that was defeated," said Razzaz soon after his election.

The extremists have included those who either advocated separation of politics from cultural matters or called for politicising the JWA, he noted.

The election of Razzaz by the JWA's general assembly was attended by Dr. Khaled Karaki, advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, who in 1987 served as the association president along with a number of parliament members. Most of the general assembly members turned out for the meeting and the voting at Friday's session, thus giving the election an added importance.

What is significant about the JWA elections was that they occurred at a crucial moment in Jordan's history as the country is undergoing political, economic and social changes with the intellectuals and the writers expected to play a key role in the evolution of the Jordanian society.

It goes without saying that these intellectuals and

writers who are mostly closer to public thinking and the man in the street than others due to the fact that they belong to middle and poor classes and constitute what one can call the society's barometre. They are different in nature than the other Jordanian intelligentsia who are culturally isolated from the society irrespective of their academic background.

One can safely say that the JWA has always expressed public reaction in Jordan to the various political and cultural events of the Arab World and reflected various political and cultural events in the Kingdom since the 1950s.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

One can also safely claim that writers and intellectuals have always led the opposition groups in Jordan. They all belonged to political parties even under martial law.

A veteran Jordanian writer and JWA member once said that the JWA has always embraced political ideologies of all kinds and its membership has always served as a tool to enhance political groups' influences on the local communities.

Indeed over the past years the JWA boards have been

elected as a result of secret agreements between the main political parties and behind the back of the general assembly. For this reason, many independent, liberal minded and creative academics in Jordan have preferred to remain outside the JWA. They have chosen to save themselves the trouble of facing politically-minded elements inside the association.

In view of the political changes in the Kingdom and in the light of the relative democratic developments and the creation of political parties with their newspapers and forums, the role of the JWA has also changed in society. The developments prompted many voices from within the association and outside it to call for giving priority to cultural and professional activities over political ones.

But regrettably last Friday's JWA elections have proved that the aspired change was still far off as the politically oriented minds still dominate the scene.

This view is best expressed by poet Mohammad Amareh, the Ministry of Culture's secretary general, who said that at least 60 out of the 300 JWA members have long since stopped writing any articles or books and opted for political and ideological trends.

In reviewing the names of the new JWA board that won the elections, one can find that more than half of them are affiliated to, or nominated by political parties.

Those nominated on the strength of their views, which called for politicising the JWA — including Subhi Taha, Abdul Jabbar Abu Gharbieh, Nazih Abu Nidal and Muwaffaq Mahadin — failed while those who won the elections included a group whose members are still culturally active despite the fact that they still hold radical ideologies. These included Mu'nis Razzaz, who also heads the Arab Democratic Party, Hashem Gharabeh and Suleiman Al Azru'i. Also three Communists, Mohammad Kharroub, Mohammad Midyeh and Muayad Al Utaibi, won seats in the new JWA board.

JWA's future

It seems that much depends now on the new JWA president to play a balance and rational role in managing the JWA, which now embraces various political and ideological trends. It is through literary writing that Razzaz arrived at the presidency and not the other way round and he is the man on whom many intellectuals pin their hopes for introducing changes in view of his good relations with all JWA members.

But Razzaz's task seems to be a difficult one at the moment as his team is affiliated to various political schools at a time when the JWA faces such controversial issues like discussing the PLO-Israeli deal over "Gaza-Jericho first" option.

Palestinian women establish shelters, hotlines

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — At age 11, Reem was raped at knifepoint by a teenage cousin. When her family found out five years later, they punished her for shaming them and a brother broke her right foot with a cinder block.

"My mother cursed me and told me, 'you are dirt and people are gossiping about you,'" recalled Reem, a 16-year-old bedouin with a cherubic face framed by a pageboy haircut.

Still, Reem is lucky. Unlike many, she had a place to escape from her family's abuse and death threats: A shelter set up last fall by Arab feminists. They say it is the first such sanctuary in the Arab World, where violence against women is often hushed up.

Since September, 50 teenagers have found temporary refuge in the five-room apartment. Its loca-

tion is kept secret. Reem, not her real name, has a chronic infection in her right foot and wears orthopedic sneakers. When police brought her to the shelter four months ago, she refused to speak.

"I didn't trust anyone," she said. "I dreamt all the time that my parents were chasing after me with a knife and I woke up screaming."

She proudly showed her drawings of flowers and a scrapbook of photos of soccer players. Starved for affection, she idolises her counselor Hanan and called her "my good mother" in a poem.

Rima Assy, director of the centre, said she has space for 10 girls, but receives 30 placement requests a week and has to refuse most of them.

While the shelter is a good start, she said, there is no follow-up. Several girls had to return home with no protection beyond pledges signed by their families in the presence of police that

they would not be harmed. The shelter's founders are pioneers in a region where violence against women is often condoned and victims are discouraged from seeking help.

"It is accepted as a private matter that concerns only the family," said Hadiya Jarad of the Democratic Women's Association in Tunisia. "The reigning mentality is that a woman can be corrected when she is on the wrong path."

Information is sketchy, but there is enough to suggest the depth of the problem.

— In Jordan, a country of 3.9 million people, about 60 women a year die in "honour killings," said Zuhra Sharabati, a criminal lawyer. About 500 women a year file assault complaints against their husbands, she added, but the vast majority of cases are not reported.

— In Tunisia, 85 per cent of the 480 female assault victims admitted in 1992 at Rabita Hospital in Tunis were beaten by their hus-

bands, said the Tunisian Democratic Women's Association.

— In the occupied territories, nearly all of the 107 Palestinian women reported slain by fellow Arabs as alleged collaborators during the uprising against Israel were in fact victims of honour killings, the Israeli human rights group B'tselem said last month.

Nadera Kevorkian, a sociologist at Bethlehem University in the West Bank, cited the case of a Palestinian woman who was raped by a brother-in-law, got pregnant, gave birth last May and was critically beaten by relatives while in the maternity ward.

She was moved to another hospital. Kevorkian pleaded with officials not to release the woman to her family, but was ignored. The day after her release, the woman's body was found, hacked to pieces, in a plastic bag on the steps of the hospital, Ms. Kevorkian said.

In recent months, Palesti-

nian women's groups have begun trying to help.

With money from donations and Israel's Welfare Ministry, the Association of Women Against Violence set up two shelters in northern Israel. The Organisation of Arab Feminists focuses on the 450,000 Arab women in Israel.

One of the shelters helps teenagers like Reem. The other, for married Arab women, is a gray two-story house in an Arab village, protected by a spike fence and alarm system. It housed seven women and 18 children during a recent visit.

The Union of Palestinian Working Women's Committees, originally associated with the Communist Party, has established a counselling centre and two hotlines for the West Bank's 500,000 women.

Amal Khreishe, who runs the hotlines, said she got 11 calls on the first day of operations in January, some from women who had never dared to discuss their problem.

Among those seeking help was a university graduate who said she had been raped repeatedly by a relative and feared her secret would be discovered.

"She said her mother believes the family must kill any girl who has sexual relations outside the marriage institution," Ms. Khreishe said.

The caller said she was running out of excuses for rejecting suitors — marriage being out of the question because of her loss of virginity. As a result of the pressure, the woman said, she suffered frequent fevers and hysterical fits.

Ms. Kevorkian said Arab women often blame themselves instead of their attackers because they are taught to be subservient to men.

"We have a patriarchal society in which men control everything and women should act according to their expectations — being nice, being sweet, preparing food and staying at home," she said.

Casualties mount as rebellion lurks among angry sheep

By Michael Field
Agence France Presse

WELLINGTON — Jokes about New Zealand having three million people and 60 million sheep have taken on lethal meaning after official figures released here revealed the woolly animals are setting out to injure humans.

A study by the Institute for Human Safety and Accident Research said sheep are causing high rates of injury to humans, and usually account for the worst injuries on farms.

For over a century in New Zealand, sheep have

been castrated, shorn, had their tails chopped off, and worst of all, at the end of their often short lives, they are turned into chops to be eaten with mint sauce and new potatoes.

But sheep often get their own back, routinely charging and head-butting farmers.

Farmers are usually hit in the back or the knee. The butts often deliver severe injuries, such as broken vertebrae.

Under New Zealand's no-fault accident compensation system, people who suffer work-related injuries

receive earning-related compensation from the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC).

The institute studied those injured and found that of the farmers seriously hurt by "contact" with sheep, one-third had been receiving ACC earnings-related payments for more than 500 days, indicating the likelihood of permanent impairment.

The report also described some of the events which debunk the idyllic rural lifestyle.

Crutching, for example, is clipping dirty wool from the rear end of a sheep an

operation that, judging from this "event description," sheep do not enjoy.

"While crutching, went in to catch a sheep and was hit from behind in lower back. Bones broken requiring four operations."

Another crutching drama: "Hit from behind on tailbone by ram while dragging another ram out of catching pen for crutching."

Another incident occurred when sheep were being taken in for drenching, dunking them in a chemical bath: "Moving sheep down race for drenching. Didn't see ram. Ram charged. Hit sideways below knee."

Almost all New Zealand sheep have their tails removed while still lambs. It is not popular with the animals: "Just finished docking. Reached in to lift out dry ewe from pen containing ewes and lambs. Ewe jumped up and hit farmer in face. Seven teeth knocked out."

New Zealand has around 60 million sheep, compared to 3.4 million people and 9 million cattle.

It is not only sheep making the bucolic lifestyle rough. Institute researcher David Steele reports the move from riding horses and to motor bikes or all

terrain vehicles has exacted its toll on farmers. Not only do farmers roll them or misjudge the terrain, but they also hit unseen hazards and animals.

"Collided with cow on flat land," says one incident report. "Fell off bike. Bike bounced on top. Injured back."

Even in the vineyards it is war, said one incident report: "Pulling out canes in vineyard. Worker reached into bush to cut vine. Employer working on opposite side of row reached in to do same thing — accidentally cut off the top of worker's finger with secateurs."

Italian devotion to pasta celebrated in museum

By Steven Heilbrunner
Reuters

ROME — For Donatella Antro, childhood memories of her mother are filled with clumps of dough that stuck to kitchen counters as they were moulded into pasta.

As a working Italian mother, 34-year-old Antro will never stain her kitchen worktops with the residue of flour that built up over the years of use in her mother's kitchen.

"I don't have time to make pasta myself," she sighed after taking a group of school children on a walk through history at Italy's first Museum of Pasta, the country's national staple.

The exhibition, tucked away in a square near Rome's Trevi Fountain, features some of the

rudimentary tools once used to mash dough and slice it.

It also houses a chronology of pasta-making that stretches to the 4th century B.C., when Etruscans mixed semolina flour and water before rolling it out into thin sheets.

It also serves as a reminder that pasta-making, though not a lost art, has fallen into the hands of fewer Italians.

Mass production and more women in the workforce make it far more likely that consumers like Antro will buy their fresh fettuccini or stuffed tortellini at a pastificio (pasta store).

The Agnesi Concern, one of the largest producers of dry and fresh pasta, financed the Museo Nazionale Delle PASTE

Alimentari to recognise Italy's top food export and its central place in Italian palates, a company spokesman said.

The official acknowledged that its sponsorship could help sales of its products in a fiercely competitive market.

Barilla, the nation's largest manufacturer with a one third share of Italian production, employs a 150-strong technical team whose sole function is to invent new shapes and sizes.

In the past three years, the company has launched 16 new varieties and guards its secrets like the crown jewels.

Visitors to Barilla's seven production centres, employing 8,500 workers, are not permitted on the pre-

mises with cameras.

Exports, at 900,000 tonnes of pasta in 1992, account for an increasing stake of Italian production. France is the top importer of pasta, followed by Germany, the United States, Sweden, Japan and Switzerland.

Italians topped the consumption list, with every man, woman and child eating 27 kg (59.5 lbs) of pasta products per year, nearly four times as much as the French.

But consumption figures don't account for the only differences in eating habits.

Italians are less moved by the novel flavours of pasta, such as black squid, beetroot or even chocolate, than foreigners.

"Anything that you can put in pasta to give a

strange colour doesn't make the pasta better," said Marcella Hazan, author of several best-selling Italian cookbooks.

She said that any flavour other than the standard egg-based yellow variety or spinach was a waste.

Ms. Hazan said that so-called new tastes were devised for export markets, particularly the United States, which were always demanding new products.

"Italians grow up and copy America. Then they get tired of it and come back to the same flour and egg pasta that they grew up on," she said.

Italy abounds with the resources required to produce pasta — hard durum wheat and water — and its accompanying sauces. Pasta

is plentiful and easy to cook but there is no simple explanation for its central place in Italian cuisine.

"It was more or less born here," said Ms. Hazan. "It's part of the land, the culture."

Indeed, Italy's most popular film maker, the late Federico Fellini, won an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1954, *La Strada*, about a peasant girl bought for a plate of pasta by a circus strongman.

And then there is Baccino Parodi, captain of the ship *Galatea*, who hired two cooks before setting sail from Genoa in 1351. In his log, Parodi wrote:

"I can manage without a compass, but I do not feel like setting out without lasagne."

Spanish TV viewers turn on to real life

By Clar Ni Chonghaile
Reuters

MADRID — Forget the jet-set casts of 1980s television soap operas, in Spain the new star of the small screen is likely to be the man or woman next door.

"Reality shows" are grabbing some of the highest ratings on Spanish television as they bring the bizarre facts of everyday life into viewers' sitting-rooms.

Their success is controversial, with detractors saying the shows represent an invasion of privacy.

"If people want to take part, how can it be an invasion?" asks television host Julian Lago.

Lago presents the popular "La Maquina De La Verdad" (The Truth Machine), which puts the loves and lives of magazine celebrities under the spotlight, and "Misterios Sin Resolver" (Unsolved Mysteries), both on the private Telecinco channel.

La Maquina attracts nine million viewers at its peak. "Misterios" is a reality show from the old school. Eerie music plays as the camera pans slowly through a rain-soaked forest. The narrator tells the grim tale of a woman's body, discovered wrapped in a shroud with two candelabras placed carefully beside it.

"The mystery continues," the solemn voice concludes. Lago dislikes being called a reality show host. "I am a bit baffled by the term 'reality show'. I think a generic definition is impossible," he said, adding that Spain's five leading human drama shows are all very different.

Professor Alejandro Navas, who has studied the reality show phenomenon, says they first appeared in the United States during a fierce battle for ratings.

Spain's passion for real-life drama dates back about two years and can be attributed partly to economics, said Prof. Navas, dean of the faculty of information sciences at the University of Navarra in northern Spain.

"The networks have discovered that these programmes are cheaper to make than, say, action series," said Prof. Navas, who also cited a taste for the morbid. "Real-life tragedy attracts us more than fiction."

Lago believes good reality shows fulfil an essential social service. "Misterios Sin Resolver" is a programme with very important social consequences. It resolves problems which had long been frozen in the courts," he said.

He points to an episode which featured the heartbroken mother of a man

jailed for six years for stealing \$28 and a pair of jeans.

The sobbing, desperate mother faced the camera, pleading for her son's release. The camera moved closer and closer until her distraught face and red-rimmed eyes filled the screen.

A few days later, Lago soberly informed his viewers that Queen Sofia had been so moved that she had granted the son a pardon.

"Remember, we are here to serve you," he concluded.

Prof. Navas does not buy this vision of the reality show. "They claim they are providing a social service by looking for solutions. But I don't think they manage to find them."

He said viewers were anaesthetised by the stream of violence and gruesome facts and, finding themselves unable to react, plunged deeper into passivity.

"It's like a type of drug," he said.

Paco Labaton, charismatic presenter of state-owned TVE's top-rating "Quien Sabe Donde" (Who Knows Where), a programme aimed at tracing missing people, collected 400 million pesetas (\$2.8 million) for Bosnia through an appeal launched on his show.

"This dignifies the campaign and shows it is not true that those who watch are only looking for slaughter," he said.

"La Maquina" ran into its own spot of real-life drama when a judge banned an episode scrutinising the relationship between a well-known actress and her husband.

Hot on the heels of this setback, came a second court ruling in January forbidding a key witness in one of Spain's most high-profile kidnapping cases from appearing on the show.

Francisco Evangelista was due to discuss the trial of a couple charged with kidnapping mother-of-three Maria Angeles Feliu, who disappeared in November 1992 and is presumed dead.

The exasperated producers have decided to suspend the programme for about two weeks. "We decided on this suspension because in this country there are problems with making free television," said Fernando Martin, a spokesman for Telecinco.

Lago has his own defence against critics who say reality shows allow too much public washing of dirty laundry: "Maquina De La Verdad" is a laundry and people come out a lot cleaner than when they come in," he enthused.

Computing without computers

By Jean-Claude Elias

When I was studying informatics at Claude Bernard University, in Lyon — France, in the mid-seventies, we spent the whole first academic year without even getting close to the university's main frame computer. Except for a short visit to the data processing centre where we were only allowed to peep from behind glazed windows, we, the students, never touched the machine nor manipulated any of its controls. I can still remember the frustration.

The first year's curriculum included advanced mathematics, programming theory, flow charts, analysis, programming exercises (on paper please) and computer architecture.

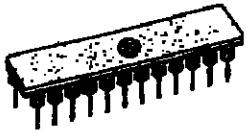
I can now think of three reasons why we were not allowed to physically touch, operate the computer by ourselves. The first one is that the French educational system, when compared to the American for instance, tends to put more emphasis on theory than practice. Both systems actually complement each other and none is considered absolutely better than the other.

The second reason is the very high cost of computers back then. Universities could not take the risk to let students damage equipment that was extremely expensive at that time. Personal computers (PCs) became commercially available only in the eighties.

The third reason, the most important of them, is still valid today. Before "hitting a PC keyboard", starting to enter data, typing or programming, a minimum preparation and thinking is required. Such preparation doesn't take a machine to do. It takes a human mind, paper and pens. Eventually, the most important part of the work will be done BEFORE moving to the machine. Processing it by the computer is only the conclusion of the task.

Word processing (computer typing) and games aside, one should not automatically sit before a PC keyboard and screen before studying the work to be done and deciding how it is to be done. Data processing professionals, more particularly analysts, are very familiar

chip talk



with the procedure. They do not need computers to do their work.

Informatics is a very wide topic. Many different specialties have been created in this field, satisfying very precise needs. Those who have to physically get in contact with the hardware are the operators, the data entry personnel, the hardware engineers and of course, most of the personal users. The others don't have to.

Even a PC user, who has a given problem to solve using his machine, should think twice before "hitting the keyboard". If the said problem takes some analysis the user should carefully study it before, do his "paper homework", decide which software is the most appropriate to process the job, and only then move to the machine. A lot of time and effort would then be saved. In some cases, failure to undertake the necessary pre-study might lead to unsolved problems.

The person who sits behind a PC monitor puts a certain amount of concentration on operating the equipment and avoiding manipulation errors. A little is therefore left to do extensive reasoning and problem solving. Doing this far from the PC, on a different desk, in a different room even, tremendously increases the chance of succeeding.

Data processing, informatics, computer science are not directly linked to machines. The latter are here only to process the work that has been prepared by the specialists. The rest is a matter of electronics and engineering.

Architecture — a problem-solving activity

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

Architecture is a problem solving activity. Architects concoct the future and honour the past. They live to design, to devise options out of nothing. Because of the architects' traditional role, with one foot in the construction industry and the other in the client's camp, architects have the responsibility of bringing together the volatile, often scarcely articulated requirements of the mass of people who use buildings, and the "money and time" driven logic of construction.

Architecture is an agent of change. The architect is the generalist who speculates on how the pieces could fit together in more beneficial ways. The architect must have the courage to face very agonizing issues: What is an architect's moral right to decide for a hundred, for ten thousand, for a hundred thousand or for two million people? But then what is the moral advantage in not acting but merely watching passively? The cruel dilemma is to really understand another's aspirations. Professionalism in architecture means having the ethic that comes with the responsibility of determining what ought to be done.

In more complex situations the debate has to be carried into the public domain. It is important however to recognise differences in strategic priorities depending on a country's level of economic and institutional development. We have to recognise that architecture, engineering and the design of spaces in cities is an extremely expensive and powerful industry. All over the world, this industry of buildings and infrastructure is extending and reshaping cities. Governments and pri-

vate investors are committing money, resources and time to train specialists in these fields. These specialists are, in turn, supposed to improve the quality of life for their clients. In terms of the overall balance of costs, the balance is negative: Far more costs and far less benefits. These specialists have to be challenged to demonstrate that what they are designing has anything to do with the necessities and priorities of the people living in urban areas.

Yet, how can urban environments be developed in a manner which optimises the frequently conflicting requirements of increasing demand, limited resources and the need to create a unique sense of place to express cultural values, climatic conditions and local topography? Can we set up a criteria for assessment to balance the conflicting interests involved whereby development is economically viable, socially responsive and ecologically sustainable, while still bearing in mind the economic, institutional and technical constraints? How does what we do as a group (designers, builders, etc...) help mobilise resources which are not used at all — to help bring unused land, unemployed people and unwanted skills to some activity when previously they were being wasted? How does the design process contribute to the conservation of the environment, natural habitat and energy in the city? How can we advance local control over local resources to meet local needs in the process of designing cities? What are we doing in designing to give space to peoples' cultural identity, ethnic identity, social identity, cosmopolitan identity? And, how can built form help people to adapt with a world which is changing once, if not twice in a lifetime?

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

- Most snakes travel only a few miles from the place where they were born.
- Only 10 per cent of American women can whistle.
- A thick glass filled with liquid will be more likely to crack than a thin one.
- A pig always sleeps on its right side.
- "Amen" means: So be it.
- Beethoven, the noted German composer, dressed so shabbily that he was once arrested as a tramp!

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- Have mercy on me. *Irhamni!*
- Have a good time. *Arjoo laka waktan tayyaban.*
- Have a nice trip. *Atamanna laka riblatan jamila.*
- Have a seat, please. *Tafaddal bil-juloos.*
- Have faith. *Kon mu'minan.*
- Never have a secret disclosed. *La taboh abadan besirr.*
- Never play with fire. *La tal'ab bin'nar.*
- Never hurt her feelings. *La tajrah masha'iraha.*
- Don't have pity on liars. *La toshfik alal-kazzabeen.*
- Haven't you anything to say? *Alaysa ladayka ayyo shay takooloh?*
- Have you any difficulty? *Hal towajihoka ayyo su'ooab?*
- How have you been? *Kaifa haloka?*

YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

ALLERGY

ALLERGY is a condition of abnormal sensitivity of the body to certain outside influence. The sensitivity is usually inherited, so that a similar condition may be found in parents and other members of the family. The outside factor is usually a protein — that is a substance of animal or vegetable origin. Thus, for instance, a

normal person is not troubled by grass pollen, but certain people are sensitive to pollen which irritates the nose and the eyes. This is the condition of "hay fever" and the victim is said to be allergic to pollen. Other people develop a constriction or narrowing of the air passages when exposed to certain types of dust, etc., to which they are sensitive. This causes difficult and wheezy breathing — the condition known as asthma.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

KIDNEY: To dream of your own kidneys suggests that a medical checkup might be advisable. A dream of eating, cooking, or serving kidneys is a warning against speculative ventures.

JOB: A sort of dream of contrary. If you were seeking a job or lost one, you can expect a promotion or other beneficial event; but if you dreamed of being offered a job, it is a warning to pay closer attention to your responsibilities.

HUMOUR

■ A man appeared in court seeking a separation from his wife.

"On what grounds?" asked the judge.

"On the grounds guaranteed in the Constitution. You know-judge-freedom of speech."

CHECK YOUR I.Q.

(1) Can you add a "donkey" to the following letters and make them meaningful:

L — — — .CL — — — .M — — — .P — — —

(2) What do the following stand for?

a- msg. b- msc. c- m/s. d- MS

(3) Find the missing number:

a- 2 7 24 77
b- 8 10 14 18 - 34 50 66

Attitudes in education

By E. Yaghi

From the students' point of view

(Those who play with fire get burned)

Even though Jordan has made remarkable progress in education, there is yet much to be desired. Although some of the weaknesses in education might be centred in the young themselves, a great deal has to do with the curriculum, the atmosphere and equipment of the classroom, and most important, the attitude and motivations of the teacher.

The minds of youth can be compared to an unplowed fertile field. The probability of a good crop depends on moisture, the right kind of seed and proper care tended to that crop before, during and after the seed is placed in the soil. Knowledge is the seed, and the instructor, the caretaker of the crop. How well then that crop grows depends on a large part on how it is taken care of.

Classroom environment is of the greatest importance. Is the room itself clean, well ventilated and does it have adequate lighting? The instructor is a vital part of class atmosphere. How does he act when he first enters the classroom? Is he polite? Is he a model of behaviour? Does he greet his students with a smile to let them know that he is going to gently lead them down the path of knowledge? Does he try to make that trip exciting? Does he make sure that each student is provided with a textbook? Does he use eye contact with all his students and does he move around the room to hold their attention and does he involve his students in classroom participation in the subject he is discussing?

Does he employ the art of the three Fs, firm, fair and friendly? Or does he become a beast in class and rule his lecture like an unjust Caesar there only to show who is boss and continue to insult and intimidate his students as long as he is present? Does he take the time and care to prepare his lessons and try to have an enveloping worldly knowledge in order to properly impart and share what he knows with his target audience?

Teaching is a talent and unfortunately, not all teachers have a talent for teaching, which brings us to the motivations for instruction. Does the teacher, whether in elementary schools, secondary ones, or at the university level, teach because he loves to, or because it's just a job to make money? Most students are usually sensitive to the teacher's attitude and will sense whether their instructor enjoys his profession or not. Imagine yourself a student at the university. You are waiting in the lecture hall for the appearance of the professor. He walks in with a smile (which is impressive) and in a voice that can be heard to all, says, "good morning class!" Since this is one of the first lectures you are taking this semester, you expect to be informed of the textbooks required for the course and also what this course is going to be about. The professor who is prompt and organised hands out a syllabus and writes the required texts for the course on the blackboard and tells his students if these books are available or not and where. He does not say, "Unfortunately, there are no books available but you can look for friends who have taken this course previously and either borrow or photocopy the material from them and by the next lecture, read the first two chapters of the book."

You might boldly venture to reply in such a case with, "but sir, we don't know anyone who took this course last semester!"

And he might say: "That's too bad, it's your problem, not mine!"

As soon as your classes are over, you pester, beg and plead with all your friends and acquaintances to lend you a book but alas, no one you know has a copy so you rush home and to the disgust of your parents, hoard the

telephone for hours desperately trying to find someone, anyone who will have the book you are looking for. To your very bad luck, you find none and so go to the next lecture without a text as all the other 59 out of 60 students do. Not wanting to be embarrassed, you sit way in the back of the class praying that your name will not be called to answer questions of a lesson you know nothing about. After several fingernail biting days, you finally come across a precious copy and run with it to the nearest xerox place so that it can be photocopied but this process will take another few days, so therefore at the following lectures until you procure a book, you hide behind the pupil in front of you so that you won't be singled out to answer questions that sound like Greek to you.

Obtaining an ample supply of texts is the duty of not only the professor but of the university or school itself. It is very unfair to expect students to be responsible for getting hold of a text if it is not available.

Another problem is the libraries. Suppose you were asked to write a research on an assigned subject for one of your professors. You skip to the library to check the list of books you were given for your reference material. Once there, you discover that none of the listed books are to be found in that ancient burial ground where books dating back to the Stone Age abound but no current publications beyond the 60s can be located. You ingeniously substitute some books to your own discretion after dusting off the layer of brown powder that accumulated there over the centuries and triumphantly tote the black recovered books that accentuate the morgue like atmosphere and go home to spend hours and hours on your paper. When at last your mission is accomplished, you wearily but proudly show your instructor your work. He just grunts and throws your pride and joy on the bottom of one thousand others and as you leave this silly nagging question pops to the forefront of your mind, as you walk out muttering to yourself: "I wonder what he ever does with all the dossiers when he finishes. Is he in some kind of business with a recycling factory?"

Many professors are very conscientious and quite efficient at their jobs, but there are a few in every faculty who tend to have the habit of boring their students to tears. Not only are their lectures tedious and tiring, but the material they choose for discussion is much the same and if you had such an instructor, you might yawn and groan; "When is this semester ever going to finish?"

As for methods of teaching in elementary and secondary schools, often the technique of intimidation is employed. Students are sometimes harshly reprimanded for incorrect answers and are either struck in front of their peers or insulted making them form a negative attitude to education in general. Nothing works better than a positive approach in which the student is verbally rewarded for the right answers and encouraged to do better when wrong in such a manner that enables him to learn to love school and everything to do with it.

It is time that innovative measures were taken in the field of education for it is the most important factor that shuttles a nation from the twentieth century to beyond 2000. Only a country committed to continually improving its standards in education will be truly progressive. Those staffed on the board of education should not be ultra-conservatives who dwell in the past, but brave men with young minds who have one foot in the future and dreams of making education a tangible entity inalienable to all, not just for those superchildren who manage to surpass insurmountable hurdles that hinder their quests. Teachers of all levels should be capable and graceful guides who escort their tourists to the exciting land of knowledge where untold secrets will be unaided to those eager treasure seekers who just so happen to be our leaders of tomorrow and the builders of the future.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 17

8:30 Flesh And Blood

Rachel hates birthday parties, especially hers; but Arlo tells her he doesn't.

9:00 Da Beat's On

A weekly review of the pop charts in the U.K. with host Muhammad Al Jazirah.

9:30 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Murder C.O.D.

Starring: Patrick Duffy and Chelsea Field

A hit man chooses and kills his victims, and then threatens the victims' families to pay him a big amount of money. A series of such murders gets the police moving.

Friday, Feb. 18

8:30 Walter And Emily

Zak is having trouble dealing with his friends, his father seeks psychiatrist

9:00 News In English

10:00 Local Programme

10:50 Feature Film — The Woman Who Sinned

Starring: Susan Lucci and Tim Matheson

A killer who commits a series of murders but makes one mistake: He kills the wrong woman.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Scene Of The Crime

Fence Parole

Somebody is assuming the character of Chris, a company man. By seeking the help of a judge, he gets not only closer to revealing the identity of the man, but to death!

11:10 Mind Your Language

Mr. Brown does not lose hope in his students, even after they fail their exams.

Saturday, Feb. 19

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

A series in Arabic, subtitled in English. It is about the Lebanese resistance against the French occupation.

9:30 Family Matters

Women seem to win in every bowling game, thus threatening the ego of their male partners.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Local Programme

10:50 Feature Film — The Woman Who Sinned

Starring: Susan Lucci and Tim Matheson

A killer who commits a series of murders but makes one mistake: He kills the wrong woman.

Sunday, Feb. 20

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

10:00 News In English

9:30 You Bet Your Life

The entertaining quiz show, hosted by Bill Cosby.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Out Of The Past

Signs And Symbols
Man's first attempts at using signs and symbols in writing are traced back to the Sumerians who lived in Iraq, and to the Mayas in Honduras, some 3,000 years ago.

11:10 Island Son

The State Vs. John Kulani

Popular medicine practised by locals in hospital becomes a case for Dr. Kulani to handle in court.

Monday, Feb. 21

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 The Torkelsons

The Egg And I

The advantages and disadvantages of early marriages is the subject discussed by Dorothy Jane and Kurby, while taking care of a baby at home.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Ver-tigo

Starring: James Stewart and Kim Novak

A wife suffering from nightmares is a victim of a plot. A private investigator reveals secrets and motives behind her murder.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 The Respected Family

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cape Rebel

11:15 Night Court

The Apartment

During Dan's birthday party, held at Judge Harry's apartment, Chinese magic captures all the attention.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 Too Close For Comfort

Being a cop has never been easy, as Henry tells Jackie when she considers marrying one.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Forest Futures

Environment

A documentary programme about the forests in Malaysia that are threatened by the environment and man.

11:15 Flight Into Hell

Based on a true story which took place during a flying trip from Germany to Australia in 1932, two German pilots find themselves stranded on a deserted shore under a burning sun.

Another milestone on the path to discovery, enlightenment and enjoyment

BOOK REVIEW

The Mosaics Of Jordan

By Michele Piccirillo

Edited by Patricia M. Bikai and Thomas A. Dailey
American Centre of Oriental Research
Amman, Jordan
384 pp., colour plates, maps, drawings
Price: JD 103 in Jordan, \$175 elsewhere

In the modern scholarship of Jordan's history and antiquities, there are a few books that stand out as enduring milestones on the continuous path to discovery, enlightenment and enjoyment. This book clearly joins that select list, while also setting a new standard of scholarship and printing in Jordan.

About once a decade, a major book is produced that captures an important aspect of the rich archaeological heritage of Jordan, and that book endures as a reference tool for scholars in future generations. This list includes works such as Bruennow and von Domaszewski's survey of the Arabian Province, Conder's survey of Palestine and Transjordan, Nelson Glueck's survey of Eastern Palestine, Kraeling's excavations at Jerash, Harding's pioneering popular book on the antiquities of Jordan, Browning's two books on Jerash and Petra, and the recent three-volume bibliography of Jordanian antiquities by Denise Holmes-Fredericq and Basil Hemessy.

This volume on the mosaics of Jordan will join this select list, for several reasons: Its scholarly content and organisation, its comprehensive scope, its high quality of production, and its powerful graphic content.

The Mosaics of Jordan is the first in an ongoing series that will be published by the American Centre of Oriental Research. Upcoming volumes now in production will cover the Hercules Temple excavations and restoration at Amman's Citadel Hill, the excavations and antiquities park project at Madaba, and the Byzantine church excavations at Petra. The income from the sales of this book will be used to finance the printing of other volumes in the series.

This book is a large (15x32 cm) volume printed in full colour on high quality paper with impressive hard cover binding. Its 384 pages, include 303 pages in full colour, bring together in a single volume all the known mosaics of Jordan from the Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad periods. It is Jordan's contribution to the effort by the Association Internationale pour l'Etude de la Mosaïque Antique to document all ancient mosaics.

The book was written and compiled by Michele Piccirillo, an Italian archaeologist at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem, which is part of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Father Piccirillo, more familiarly known to his many friends and colleagues in Jordan as "Abouna Michele", has dedicated his life's scholarship



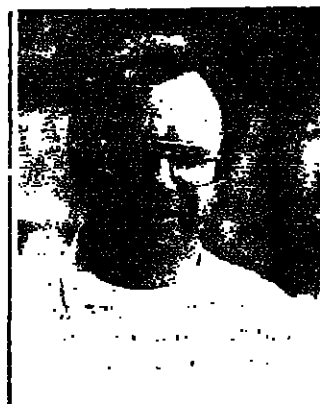
A fox eating grapes from a basket, from the mosaic floor of the Church of Deacon Theonas at Uyun Musa, near Mt Nebo, showing the quality of detail visible in the photographs in this book.

work to the excavation and study of the mosaics of Jordan. It is appropriate that the breadth and depth of his work — not to mention the magnanimity of his personal character — should be captured in such a magnificent publication as this.

The first 31 pages of the book provide the most comprehensive and accurate overview of the mosaics of Jordan available anywhere, very intelligently organised into several sequential sections: The history of archaeological exploration in different parts of the country, technical research, protection and restoration, and the mosaics of several different periods, including the Hellenistic-Roman, 5th-6th century, 7th century, classical renaissance, and Umayyad periods.

Within this text are valuable essays about the Hippolytus Hall and the Madaba Map mosaics (including a complete list of all the legends on the Madaba Map), the Ma'in and St Stephens Church-Umm El Rasas mosaics, the classical personifications and motifs in Jordanian mosaics, iconophobia (prohibition of destruction of human images) in the history of Jordanian mosaics, and the mosaics as historical sources. This introductory text section finishes with a fitting list of the names of the ancient mosaicists, known from inscriptions in their works.

The bulk of the book that follows reviews all the known mosaics of the country, arranged according to their geographic locations, starting with the important collection of mosaics in the Madaba region. Each mosaic is described in a section of text that is accompanied by excellent quality four colour and black and white photographs (many covering full pages), black and white drawings and plans, and many aerial photographs of the sites and monuments described. The aerial photographs are particularly valuable, for they allow us to appreciate structures that are not easily discernible from ground level.



Michele Piccirillo

The regions covered in the book are: Madaba City, Mount Nebo, Ma'in, Umm El Rasas, the territory of Madaba, Esbus (Hisban), Philadelphia, Gerasa, Bosra, the territory of Provincia Arabia (the Roman Province of Arabia), Palestina Prima, Palestina Secunda, Palestina Tertia (the three Byzantine era Palestinian provinces), the territories of Palestina Prima and Secunda, and the Umayyad castles.

The book finishes with maps of Madaba and Jerash, extensive notes on all 787 figures (photographs, maps and plans), references, an extensive bibliography, an index, and an index of mosaics.

While many of us are familiar with the mosaics of the Madaba region and

Jerash, this book gives us a much wider appreciation of the mosaic and ecclesiastical or early Islamic heritage of Jordan, from sites such as Pella, Abila, Aqaba, Feinan, Qastal, Qasr El Hallabat, South Shouma, Mukawir, Kerak, Rabba and Amman, to mention only a few of the sites covered. For archaeology enthusiasts who enjoy making daytrips or overnight outings to Jordan's many antiquities sites, this book will prove to be an invaluable investment, for two reasons: It will add a major new dimension to your understanding and enjoyment of the sites you visit, and it will prompt you to visit scores of new sites that you may have overlooked in your explorations of the country.

The book is also a good investment in the literal sense, for I suspect that in a few decades it will be a collector's item, likely to be sought after in future in the same way that people today look for old Roberts prints or other original representations of our landscape and its antiquities. The book is being sold at ACOR for JD 103 (\$175 abroad). The price may appear high at first glance to the average reader, but in view of the cost of scholarly and four-colour art books around the world, this is, in fact, a very reasonable price for what it buys. For archaeology and history enthusiasts, it is a bargain, in view of the enormous amount of information and pleasure it will provide its owners for many years.

This book will be used by scholars for many decades to come, both for its text and illustrative matter. It allows readers to appreciate the mosaic panels and floors in their totality, with a sharpness and clarity of colour that are usually hard to match on the spot because of the dust that often covers the exposed mosaic floors in their original sites. Some of the aerial photos of large mosaic floors are breathtaking, especially the Umm Al Rasas and Mukhayyat panels. The close-ups allow scholars to study the most minute details of the mosaic representations, and in many cases this book provides access to mosaic floors that have been covered for protection or that were inadvertently destroyed in years past.

Scholars and lay persons alike will find themselves, as I did, spending hours flipping through the pages, alternately marvelling at the beauty of full-page reproductions of entire mosaic floors and enjoying the discovery of small details in the close-up photos of representations of people, birds and animals, flowers and plants, and cities (those readers who know Greek will also enjoy reading the ancient inscriptions). I found myself wandering back into the nearly one thousand years covered by these mosaics (from the 1st century BC to the 8th century AD), using the graph information in past: I hunting and agricultural scenes to imagine what life was like in the past. In many ways, these reproductions allow us to enjoy the most satisfying aspect of archaeology for non-specialists: The challenge to try and recreate ancient societies in our mind, using the hints and clues available in the splendid mosaic depictions.

The scope and quality of this book are such that it can probably transcend the traditional value of printed books and reach a much greater audience than only those people who buy it or read it in a library. It would be a useful service, for example, if some public-spirited person or institution would buy several copies, cut out the full page and other large colour photographs, and mount them for permanent display in one or more Jordanian museums. The photos are large enough and of good enough quality to be displayed in this manner.

It would also be useful to produce a permanent travelling exhibition of the photographs for show around the country and abroad, in schools, community centres, museums and other appropriate venues. The material in this single volume is so rich that it would be a shame not to make it available to a larger audience, especially to school children and teachers throughout Jordan. Jordan Television could summon all its technical and creative resources to produce video versions of the photographs and information in the book, for a variety of scholarly, touristic and other audiences in Jordan and around the world.

Never before has so much original visual information about ancient Jordan been made available to the public in such a convenient and high quality form; to make it available to a wider audience would honour the work of the ancient mosaicists and the contemporary people who produced this book.

THE MOSAICS OF JORDAN



MICHELE PICCIRILLO

Cover of the book The Mosaics Of Jordan

In this context, it seems to me that there is a direct and purposeful link between the ancient mosaicists and their patrons who created the mosaics of Jordan, and the contemporary scholars and technicians who reproduced them in this book. The common theme in both cases was a desire to share with the public a sense of belief, passion and commitment to quality, whether related to religious or secular art in the past or to scholarship and publishing in the present.

A noteworthy aspect of this book is that it was produced in Jordan, using a combination of local and international resources. One of the points that the publishers wanted to make was that a book of such high quality could be produced in Jordan. It now remains for Jordanians and their international colleagues to show that the precedent of such quality printing and binding can be maintained in the years to come, with or without the financial and technical expertise that has been available for this volume. The collaborative international aspect of this publishing project has been an important part of its success, and a fitting symbol of what can be achieved when Jordanians and their friends in other countries put their

mind to do a job to the highest international standards.

All those individuals and institutions that have been involved in the publication of The Mosaics Of Jordan should be commended for the combination of their audacity and their triumph. One should particularly note the work of Father Piccirillo, the editors Patricia M. Bikai (of ACOR) and Thomas A. Dailey (of the United States Agency for International Development-USAID), ACOR (the publisher), USAID (financial support), the Jordan Press Foundation-Al Ra'i printing press, Modern Factory for Printing and Binding (stitching and binding), Adriana and Marino Ferrari (design), and Mr. Shishir Dutta who supervised the colour separation, printing, and binding.

They have collectively achieved a very impressive and useful deed that will give us pleasure for many years to come, and in return for which they will enjoy our continued appreciation and admiration.

If you're interested in antiquities and mosaics, buy this book for yourself. If you're not, buy it as a gift for a friend or family member who is, or for a local or national library.

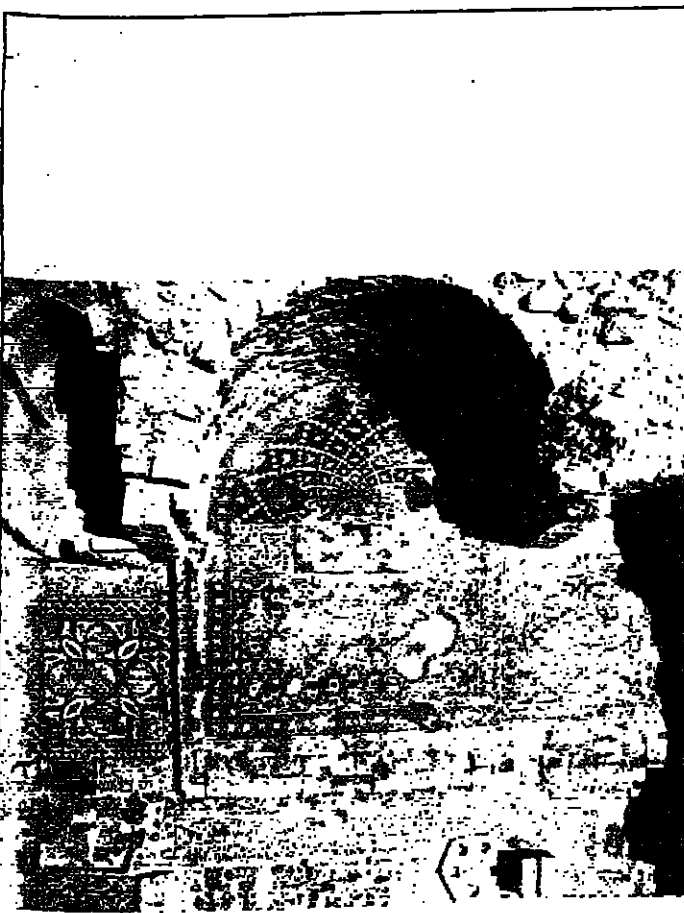
Rami G. Khouri

THE MOSAICS OF JORDAN



Michele Piccirillo

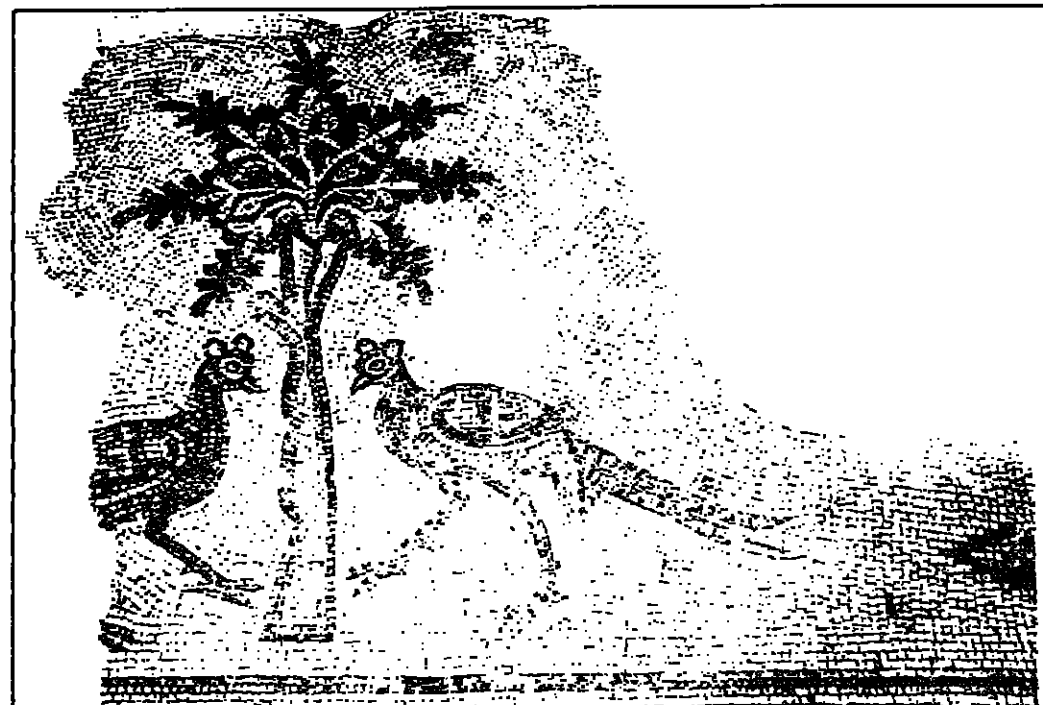
AMERICAN CENTER OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH PUBLICATION NUMBER 001



The Church of St. Stephen at Umm Al Rasas — aerial photo of the altar area and a



close-up of one of the representations of the ancient cities of Jordan and Palestine.



Two pheasants facing a tree, from a mosaic from a chapel at Sweifi in Amman.



A close-up of details of the Madaba mosaic map of Palestine, allowing easy reading of the names of the sites represented on the map.

Dying girl's illness renews debate on 'mad cow' disease

By Cynthia Johnson

Reuter

LONDON — The row in Britain over "mad cow" disease has taken a new twist with the disclosure that a 16-year-old girl suffering from a rare illness may have caught it from infected meat.

Victoria Rimmer is suffering from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), a mysterious and usually fatal deterioration of the brain. The illness is rare and normally found in older people.

Some doctors say Rimmer may have caught CJD from eating the meat of cows suffering from a similar sickness, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow" disease, which swept through British herds in the late

1980s.

"We think this is the first certain case of BSE infecting a member of the human race by this method," said Dr. Richard Lacey, a microbiologist at Leeds University and campaigner on the dangers of BSE to man.

Other researchers, and the British government, say no link between the two illnesses has been shown. Britain's chief medical officer condemned as "irresponsible scare stories" press reports suggesting people risked contracting CJD from beef.

They point out that the cause of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is unknown in 90 per cent of cases and confirming its diagnosis difficult without a postmortem examination in which the characteristic "spongy"

holes in the brain can be seen.

There are inherited forms of the illness, which has also been contracted through medical treatments such as human growth hormone injections from donors who unknowingly had CJD.

To date BSE has been found almost exclusively in British cattle. After the first case was reported in 1986, the number of reported cases peaked at 44,000-45,000 annually in 1992-93, according to John Wilesmith, the head of epidemiology at Britain's Central Veterinary Laboratory, which monitors the disease worldwide.

"There are now 300 fewer suspected cases being reported each week than at the same time last year," Dr. Wilesmith said.

Small numbers of cases have been reported in continental Europe, Ireland, Canada and Oman, mainly in cattle imported from Britain.

Researchers say BSE is the bovine form of scrapie, a sickness that affects sheep, and is believed to have been transmitted to cows through protein feed supplements which contained sheep brain infected with scrapie.

Once the suspected link was discovered the practice was stopped in 1989 and human consumption of brain and spinal cord material banned. Studies are under way on other possible transmission routes in cattle including from cow to calf.

Researchers said Britain had possibly been hard hit by BSE because of the num-

ber of sheep with a high level of scrapie, rendering processes that failed to kill scrapie in offal and the practice of feeding protein supplements in intensive farming.

Some scientists say that not enough research has been done to prove that BSE cannot be transmitted via tissue other than the brain and spinal cord, and if, or how easily, it could move not only from sheep to cows but from cows to man or other animals.

Chris Bostock, a BSE specialist at the Institute of Animal Health in Berkshire west of London, says all experimental transmissions of BSE have occurred only when the brains of cows were used.

"There have been a large number of attempts to

transmit the infection experimentally from other cattle tissue, mainly to mice. These experiments are incomplete but as of today there has been no transmission from any tissue other than that of brain or spinal origin," he said.

Critics of the mouse experiments say they may not accurately reflect the risks to man.

"The mouse isn't very vulnerable to BSE, which mainly affects larger animals such as pigs, cattle and monkeys," said Dr. Lacey.

"Therefore I just don't believe the negative results." "Also it's just not credible that the infectious agent is found only in the brain and spinal cord when it has to pass through other organs to get there."

Concern over the risk of

BSE transmission to humans has spilled over from meat to medicines. A range of human pharmaceuticals use materials derived from cattle, including genetically-engineered products using foetal calves.

Last month, Portugal banned two drugs prescribed to aid memory because they contained cow materials.

Another firm, DDI Pharmaceuticals of Mountain View, California, has detailed its findings on the risks of contracting BSE from its drug Orgotein, which contains a substance derived from cows' liver.

It initiated the research two years ago at the request of the Italian government which has been concerned about human drugs with bovine components. The

drug is prescribed for inflammatory conditions such as arthritis.

"The risk of transmission of BSE with Orgotein is less than one chance in one billion," Dr. Mark Saiter, DDI's vice-president and scientific director, said of the findings.

About eight years after the first reported case of BSE, the international debate over the disease shows no signs of abating.

"People who say that there is transmission from animals to humans are speculating," said Dr. Richard Knight, a neurologist at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary who has conducted research into CJD.

"People who have stated that it is absolutely impossible... are also making an unwarranted statement."

Ethical dilemmas of test-tube babies under spotlight

By Suzanne Perry

Reuter

BRUSSELS — The new controversy over "retirement babies" highlights the growing number of ethical dilemmas tied to scientific advances in artificially producing babies.

Cases involving a 59-year-old British woman who gave birth to test-tube twins on Christmas Day and a 62-year-old Italian woman who is several months pregnant have attracted a flurry of publicity and demands for new restrictions.

French Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy has called for an emergency meeting of his European Union (EU) colleagues to discuss harmonising rules on artificial fertilisation to prevent what he called "medical tourism" by wealthy women.

His government wants to restrict procedures to couples of childbearing age.

But some scientific experts say post-menopausal pregnancies are not the most serious ethical prob-

lem in the area of in vitro fertilisation — the creation of human embryos by uniting eggs and sperm in a laboratory — simply because not many women are likely to want them.

"I think it's a lot of publicity about very few cases," said Margareta Mikkelsen, a Danish geneticist and member of a biotechnology ethics committee that advises the European Commission, the EU executive.

Walter Oswald, a Portuguese medical professor and chairman of an EU working group on human embryo research, said he opposes test-tube pregnancies for women older than 60 because statistically speaking they will survive for perhaps 12 or 15 years of their child's life.

But Prof. Oswald said that if he had to pick the most important ethical question related to in vitro fertilisation — which produced its first baby in 1978 — it would be how to dispose of the multiple embryos which are created during the process of trying

to get a woman pregnant but which are not implanted in her womb.

"It's sort of Russian roulette — whom are you giving the right to live?" he said.

The treatment of the embryos which are not implanted because they are not needed or are defective is a key preoccupation in the expanding field of "bioethics."

Prof. Oswald's committee was set up in 1991 at the request of EU research ministers partly to review national legislation on embryo research — conducted, for example, to discover better contraceptive or infertility treatments.

The Council of Europe, a 32-member inter-governmental group based in the French city of Strasbourg, will address the issue in a bioethics convention which it is drafting.

However, it is the convention's key area of dispute because of differences between countries on whether to allow embryo research and if so how to

restrict it, according to a council background report.

The draft convention, which a council spokeswoman said is likely to be finalised by the end of the year, leaves it to national governments to decide whether to allow such research. But, in line with some existing national legislation, it restricts activities to the first 14 days after fertilisation.

The text also prohibits the creation of embryos for research purposes, but some countries are unhappy with that provision, the council said.

The differences in this area highlight a key difficulty in regulating ethical questions, especially on a cross-border basis — diverging cultural and religious views.

The council, for example, tried to draft a recommendation on human artificial procreation in 1989, but decisions must be unanimous and predominantly Catholic Liechtenstein vetoed the text because it wanted more restrictions. The document was issued

as a report, however, and lays down a range of principles to cover in vitro fertilisation. It says the procedure should be limited to heterosexual couples, for example, and discourages the use of "surrogate mothers."

It says the use of donors to provide sperm or eggs — which would apply to the case of post-menopausal women, who must use donated eggs — should be allowed only in exceptional

cases and that artificial procreation should not be used to select the sex of a child except as a way to avoid an hereditary disease.

It does not address the question of race, another controversy because of reports that a black woman in Britain had been implanted with a white woman's egg.

Nor does it address the question of the mother's age, but Johanna Kits Nieuwenkamp, vice-chairman of the council's

Bioethics Steering Committee, said it is possible that a planned protocol to the bioethics convention on embryo research will tackle the issue.

"Although the number of cases may be low... it may be important to take a stand on this," she said.

Carlo Casini, an Italian member of the European Parliament, said he is drafting a resolution calling on EU states to limit the age of mothers using in vitro ferti-

lisation. He hopes the parliament will adopt the resolution later this month.

He said governments should impose the same age restrictions in these cases as they do for adoptions.

But the resolution, if adopted, will have only moral authority.

European Commission officials say legislation on such issues is strictly up to national governments, even under the EU's Maastricht Treaty.

Chemotherapy allows some cancer victims to save breasts

By Loran Neergaard

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Surgery — sandwiched between two difficult six-month courses of chemotherapy — not only dramatically improves survival for women with advanced breast cancer, it also allows some to save their breasts, researchers reported.

Women with locally advanced breast cancer — large tumours that may have spread to the lymph nodes — typically have only a 20 per cent chance of living two years.

Doctors at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, beginning in 1979, treated 158 of these women by giving them intensive chemotherapy for as much as six months before

surgery. The chemotherapy shrank the tumours dramatically, making it easier for surgeons to remove all the malignant cells, said lead researcher Dr. Gordon Schwartz.

After surgery, the women underwent radiation and another six months of chemotherapy. Eighty per cent remained alive and disease-free after two years, 61 per cent after five years and 55 per cent after 10 years, said the study, published in the journal Cancer.

Several other cancer centres have reported similar success, but the Jefferson study went a step further. It found women with advanced breast cancer to not have to lose their breasts.

Mastectomy is the standard treatment for such

advanced cancer. But 40 per cent of the Jefferson patients had their tumours shrink enough to undergo a lumpectomy, removal of just the tumour and affected lymph nodes. Mastectomy and lumpectomy patients had the same survival rate, Dr. Schwartz said.

"The significance is this offers an alternative," said Dr. Sandra Swain, a breast cancer specialist at Georgetown University. "Breast conservation is not routinely done, even at major cancer centres, for small cancers. Now we see it worked for this advanced cancer."

Doctors at M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston are beginning to see similar results with lumpectomy, said Anderson oncologist Dr. Aman Buzdar.

"This is very exciting," he said. The challenge will be changing "surgeons' idea that the more you cut, the more you're going to cure."

"We haven't found the holy grail," Dr. Schwartz cautioned. "These women had their backs against a wall and we were looking for a way to save their lives. Breast conservation was an unexpected plus... but every woman isn't going to be able to have a lumpectomy."

Breast cancer is the

second-leading cancer killer among American women, after lung cancer. It takes 46,000 lives a year. Locally advanced breast cancer accounts for 10 to 20 per cent of the breast cancer diagnosed each year, totalling about 25,000 cases.

Dr. Schwartz stopped the chemotherapy before surgery as soon as each patient's tumour stopped shrinking, but said most took six months. Other centres have not reported giving the potent drugs for that long, and two of Dr. Schwartz's patients said living with a large tumour for six months was as hard as handling the chemotherapy's side effects.

"It's a very tough decision to have to make," said Bobbi Kissinger, 48, of Washington Township, N.J., who underwent a lumpectomy two years ago. "But if I hadn't, I probably would be dead."

Dr. Schwartz, speaking to reporters in Washington, advocated such chemotherapy for women with less advanced cancer as well.

M.D. Anderson is preparing to study that, Dr. Buzdar said. "We are hoping that eventually what will happen is that lesser and lesser surgery will be needed and fewer and fewer women will lose their breasts," he said.

AIDS anxiety heightened by accidental cases

By Jacqueline Frank

Reuter

WASHINGTON — People with AIDS fear renewed social stigma after widely publicised reports of accidental transmission of the virus, but say they take heart at the quick efforts of health officials to ease public anxiety.

"The public obviously is concerned. The first thing they desire is reassurance from people they trust," said Mike Isbell, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal Defence Fund who represents people with the AIDS virus in discrimination suits.

"The first signs are encouraging that public health leaders are going to show leadership," Mr. Isbell said. Within days of the report of two cases of accidental spread of the virus in young people, representatives of the Federal Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta and the National Institutes of Health spoke out.

They noted that no new method of transmission was involved and renewed their

calls for schools, families and caregivers to follow proper hygiene including avoidance of contact with the blood of infected persons.

In one case, the virus was transmitted by a razor shared by two teenage brothers, according to the Centres for Disease Control. In the other, the infected blood from a five-year-old permeated a skin rash of his two-year-old brother, Rutgers University researchers in New Jersey said.

Mr. Isbell and others said AIDS victims are understandably anxious these reports might worsen the stigma of the disease.

"As much as one would comment that this is a rare event and is not a new method of transmission, it is understandable that it makes people anxious," said Dr. S. Kenneth Schonberg of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

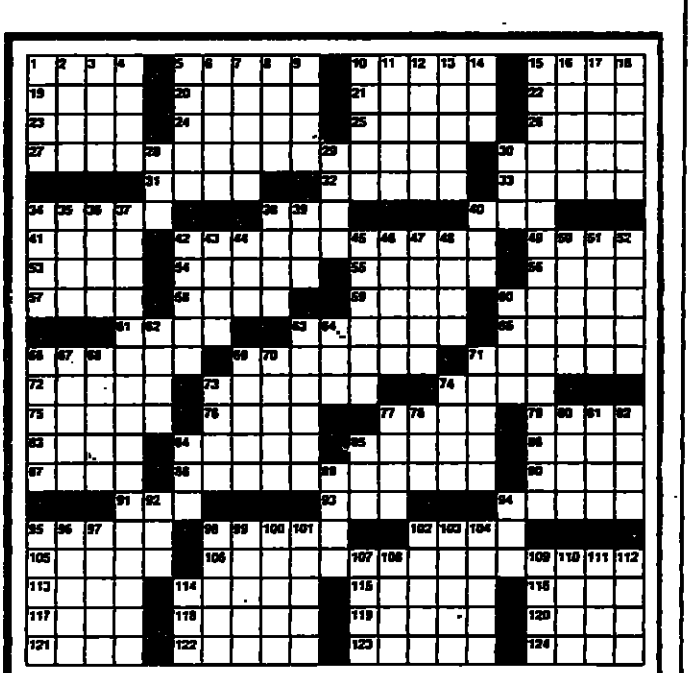
The hysteria that accompanied early cases of AIDS has not been seen recently in schools or day care centres, according to the Pediatric AIDS Foundation in California.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SEPARATISM

By Joan D. Berberich

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Festive occasion | 1 Desert in Mongolia |
| 4 Weight units | 2 Tie |
| 10 Bony plate | 3 Like Alaskan |
| 15 June's VIP, for short | 4 Trenchless |
| 19 D.C. office | 5 Waugh |
| 20 Spout part | 6 Small wood |
| 21 Spoiled | 7 Runabout |
| 22 Uncommon | 8 Hap |
| 23 Shade of blue | 9 Toboggan |
| 24 Egg-shaped | 10 Kind of power |
| 25 Greyish plant | 11 Unrelated |
| 26 The James | 12 Europe-Asia mountains |
| 27 Harard | 13 Tokyo, once 15,000 miles of |
| 28 Iron ore | 14 Shabby |
| 29 Provide food | 15 Russian unit |
| 30 Collocate | 16 "Week of the Mary" |
| 31 Fashion | |
| 34 Shoulder cover | |
| 38 Mineral spring | |



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Harriett turns a reddish-purple and brandishes an old dishpan as rabbits approach her redish patch.
2. Construction crew working on new tall public building eyes tiny people on sidewalk below.
3. We may be either bulls or bears, but don't tangle us with any bull testers.
4. Wall Street sages like to say: "Bulls and bears will make money; pigs end up broke."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TYBDJLYWM QLQBEMJBEY BMQBE QTAQM EKE QKI LWTKMTA HEQTWI CTAS NYTM HJTYA EYQI HLIB CSMT VTWYMK ZIL KJYV ZDNNLQE — By Earl Ireland
2. ALSCECLF GL RULF TV TOADEYTV SERI RULO YISLC GDI CTGIV — By Barbara J. Rags
3. IFAGANE ISAGAME AO MRUDPRM MU BIZ BOOBZMAIG DMAGAME AZ IMRGMAP PUZMBOMO — By Ed Huddleston
4. AUYBY CDZX YG EAEX ABCD EFF CDGZ GPF ZYBZPF — By Duane H. McGee

Diagramless 17 x 17, By Don Johnson

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Long, detailed report | 1 Kitchen gadget |
| 4 Eternal | 2 Part of USA |
| 9 Tough lively | 3 Pub drink |
| 15 Egg on | 4 Eaten |
| 16 Ballroom | 5 Hurled |
| 17 Dance | 6 Wandered |
| 18 Galathea | 7 Farmer, at times |
| 19 Positive | 8 Nun's cap |
| 20 New doctor | 9 English queen |
| 21 Narrow cut | 10 Russian unit |
| 22 Tablet | 11 News network |
| 24 Charge | 12 Natives' suit |

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 25 Swiss river | 37 Farm machine | 49 Elch |
| 26 Apoc | 38 Skin lotion | 50 Overdue |
| 27 Voice over | 39 War god | 51 Milkshake |
| 28 At one's — and | 40 Composer Harold | 52 Newspaper |
| 29 Wagon without sides | 41 Individual plant of a clone | 53 Employee |
| 30 — Hauls, incl. | 42 "Dragon" | 54 Formerly, once |
| 31 Light boat | 43 Vegetable dish | 55 Spanish |
| 32 Wet earth | 44 Gun or engine | 56 Gentry |
| 33 Coach | 45 Unique thing | 57 Intensely |
| 34 Sacred beetle | 46 Uncle — | 58 Tenant |
| 35 Term in an atlas | 47 Violent free-for-all | 59 Pirate |
| 36 — mode | 48 Alphabet run | 60 Appraised |

SOLUTIONS

- (1) LASS, CLASS; MASS, PASS.
- (2) a- MESSAGE. b- MISCELLANEOUS. c- METRES PER SECOND. d- MANUSCRIPT.
- (3) a- 238. (The series is formed by starting with number 3, and then forming each successive part of the series by taking the first, second, third, fourth and fifth powers of 3, and subtracting respectively 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.)
 $3-1=2$; $3^2-2=7$; $3^3-3=24$; $3^4-4=77$; $3^5-5=238$.
- (b) 26. (There are two alternate series, starting with the first two numbers, and easily formed by doubling at the preceding number in its series and subtracting 2. $14 \times 2 = 28 - 2 = 26$.)

Jordan, PLO report 'concrete steps'

(Continued from page 1)

(U.N.) resolutions that (call for) land in exchange for peace (and) a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians on their soil."

On Jerusalem, the committee "emphasised the importance of implementing plans to consolidate the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City and save the holy shrines there from Judaisation and usurpation."

Among the most tangible outcome of the talks, according to the joint statement and officials, is a decision to resist Israeli moves to impose rules that could block trade between Jordan and territories which are expected to come under Palestinian autonomy rule under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord signed in Washington.

The two sides also agreed on a definite timetable for convening meetings of joint committees on Jerusalem, economic cooperation, border and security affairs, refugees and displaced people and law and regulations and formed a new committee on administrative affairs, said the joint statement.

Dr. Anani noted that "some of the committees may have to work for three, perhaps four years," while the task of others was limited to the immediate phase.

The meetings reviewed details of procedures related to the travel of Palestinians to and from Jordan, "who should cross, what kinds of permits, what kind of papers they carry," Dr. Anani told reporters.

Dr. Anani said Jordan did not have any problem with honouring Palestinian passports if the Palestinian self-rule authorities issued them.

"I am sure the Palestinians would love to issue passports because (passports) are a symbol of sovereignty, a sign of

statehood," he said. "Other countries, and that excludes Jordan, may not accept (such passports), eventually prompting every Palestinian to acquire another set of documents."

"Therefore we have to be sure of what kind of IDs they are going to issue, we have to agree on the modalities of doing that," he said. "We in Jordan will cooperate in any decision that the Palestinians are going to take."

"We have agreed on the framework and what should be negotiated over" in the context of trade between the two banks of the River Jordan, Dr. Anani said.

A Jordan-PLO agreement signed in Amman on Jan. 7 has set forth a broad outline of trade and economic relations between Jordan and the envisaged Palestinian autonomous territories.

Israel, which is conducting its own economic talks with the PLO in Paris, has been trying to impose hurdles in the path of Jordanian-Palestinian trade by demanding tariffs while seeking free trade between itself and the Palestinian market, PLO negotiators have said.

"Trade is going to be one of the most delicate and dangerous issues to be discussed in Paris, and you all know that Israel is seeking to maintain the present economic status quo," where the Jewish state maintains the West Bank and Gaza as a closed market for all, save itself, Dr. Anani said.

"Jordan and the PLO reject this," the minister said. "Therefore we had to... take a unified position that says we want to increase trade flows between the two banks without allowing Israel to interfere in that."

"The Jordanian dinar will be the currency in circulation in the occupied territories, Dr. Anani said. But the Palesti-

nians have to decide whether they want the Jordanian currency to be the "legal tender."

"You cannot impose your currency as the legal tender on someone else," he said. "But any bank that deals with the dinar has to be subject to Jordanian laws."

Jordanian banks are expected to reopen in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip soon. Five banks have already been granted "preliminary licences" by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and they are now awaiting an expected Israeli approval.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali stressed in a radio interview Wednesday that Jordan was committed to full coordination with the Palestinians and the other Arab states involved in the Middle East peace process and to collective Arab action in efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Dr. Majali told the Sawt Al Arab radio, which broadcasts from Cairo, that some progress had been achieved in talks between Israel and Jordan regarding some issues included in the Israeli-Jordanian agenda which was signed last September.

Stressing the importance of Europe's backing for the peace process, Dr. Majali said that the Jordanian government discussed Europe's role in this peace process with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe during his recent visit to Amman.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim was quoted Wednesday as saying that coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians had achieved major progress.

The recent meeting between King Hussein and President Arafat in Amman "paved the ground for a new phase of closer cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians," the ambassador said.

Arafat accuses Israelis of arms trade

(Continued from page 1)

would threaten his life or attempt to sabotage the deal, saying: "Only the Palestinians and the Israelis, the two partners who signed the agreement in Washington... can damage it."

He said Israel's policy of delaying implementation of the agreement "will sabotage the peace process and reflect negatively on the whole process. It will backfire dangerously... not only on Palestinians, but on the whole area because confusion is contagious and will spread throughout the region... it will lead to balkanisation as well."

"The Israeli government is not in a hurry to implement anything," he said. "We are late anyway because implementation of the agreement; the beginning of withdrawal should have been on Dec. 13."

According to the self-rule agreement, Israeli troops should have started withdrawing from Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13 to be finalized on April 13. Disputes over security on border crossings between Jordan and Jericho and between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, as well as the size of Jericho and the area of Jewish settlements in Gaza Strip delayed implementation.

The two sides succeeded in initiating a security agreement in Cairo on Feb. 9, but many issues remained unresolved.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said another month was needed to resolve pending issues.

"We have to remember what Rabin had said about having no sacred dates: How can this be accepted internationally, and from the American administration, and from U.S. President Clinton, since the agreement was signed under his auspices?" Mr. Arafat said.

"Especially the dates are the main part of the agreement. But until now, two months have passed and nothing has been implemented on the ground."

The 65-year-old PLO leader switched from Arabic to English when he spoke in a soft voice. His body rocked in his chair in a sign of nervousness. He sought help in English from two press advisers attending

the interview.

"This is the first time I speak to the press after the Cairo agreement. Even in Cairo I did not speak about it," he said.

Fumbling with his files on his desk, he picked up a document, put on his looking glasses and started reading out the remaining "difficult issues and problems" which needed further negotiations in Cairo, Taba and in a meeting between him and Mr. Rabin before a final agreement.

"The Palestinian security forces and the police force are still one of the problems that still have to be settled. The size of Jericho area has not been settled. Other main issues concerning the security zone for the settlements in Gaza Strip."

"They (Israelis) are asking more than what they had asked before. In the beginning they asked for 170 square kilometres in the Gaza Strip, half the area of the strip, and then 32 square kilometres and about 20 the zoning."

He said Israelis had not given the Palestinians the size of the police force they want deployed in the self-rule areas after Israeli withdrawal. "But in developed countries it is known for the security forces and police force that for every 200 people there should be one policeman. In our case, especially that we are facing many problems, it should be one policeman for every hundred people, since we won't have an army to call in cases of emergency."

He added among the unresolved issues were the differences in security arrangements between the bridges over the Jordan River and Rafah entrances.

"There is no electronic line on the Egyptian-Palestinian border as it is now the case all along the Jordan River border. Between Jordan's border and the Palestinian territory at the other side of the river there is an electronic line with a depth between 2-3 kilometres... Israel wants to keep this electronic security line during the interim period."

Other details, he said, include the administration of the border crossings and security and liaison bureaus on crossings. "All these are still under discussion."

The 12-page detailed Cairo agreement included eight pages on border crossings' security arrangements.

Mr. Arafat said the most important thing about the Feb. 9 Cairo accord was that "it was the first agreement for the implementation of the declaration of principles which we signed in Washington."

He described his three-day negotiations in Cairo with Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres as "very difficult."

The Cairo meeting was on the verge of failure even during the last minutes before the signing "because of Israeli insistence to adhere to certain conditions and certain demands; that is why it is clear that many issues in the agreement were left for further negotiations and agreement in Taba," he said.

"There were many surprises in Cairo, I don't want to enter into that again now."

Reflecting back on the Cairo meetings, the PLO chairman said "all the Israelis are very difficult in negotiations."

Refusing to assess his negotiating experience with both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, he said: "I don't want to interfere. This is an Israeli internal affair and I have no right to speak about it. Peres was representing the Israeli government and was mandated by Rabin and the Israeli government, as he had mentioned to the Egyptians and to me before our arrival in Cairo."

However, Mr. Arafat said, since he founded Fatah in 1964 with his companions, most of whom had been assassinated, "I have become used to difficult times. I don't remember any period of my life without difficulties... it is what I had chosen right from the beginning. I had no illusions."

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Twenty-four high school students from around the Kingdom will today sit for exams in Arabic, English, mathematics and general knowledge as part of a multi-step competition in which two to four will be selected to spend two years abroad at a United World College.

The United World College (UWC) are an international movement whose aim is to promote peace and understanding through education. The movement consists of eight colleges around the world, plus UWC committees in over 50 countries, an active association of former students from the programme, and an international office in London which coordinates and executes the policies of the UWC International Board.

The UWC was founded in 1962. Jordan began participating in the programme in the early 80s and has so far sent 22 students (seven from the Irbid, Karak and Zarqa governorates) to live and study abroad. At present, three of the 22 (nine girls and 13 boys) are completing their senior year and three others are finishing their junior year.

The selection process usually begins in November of each scholastic year when an announcement of the UWC programme scholarships is made and application forms are sent to the school directorates throughout the country.

Public and private school students are eligible to compete. They are nominated as candidates by their respective schools. By the end of January, the Ministry of Education collects the applications, prepares the candidates' lists and the exams are scheduled for mid-February.

Since its inception in Jordan, the UWC programme has been administered through the Amman Baccalaureate School. School Principal Samia Al Farra, who is also secretary of the UWC National Committee in Jordan, told the Jordan Times that through living and studying together, students come to respect one another as individuals with different experiences, cultures and backgrounds to share.

She stresses that in the selection process, it is equally important to determine that a student will be able to cope with the cultural differences he or she will face in living in another country and dealing with peers from a diverse international community.

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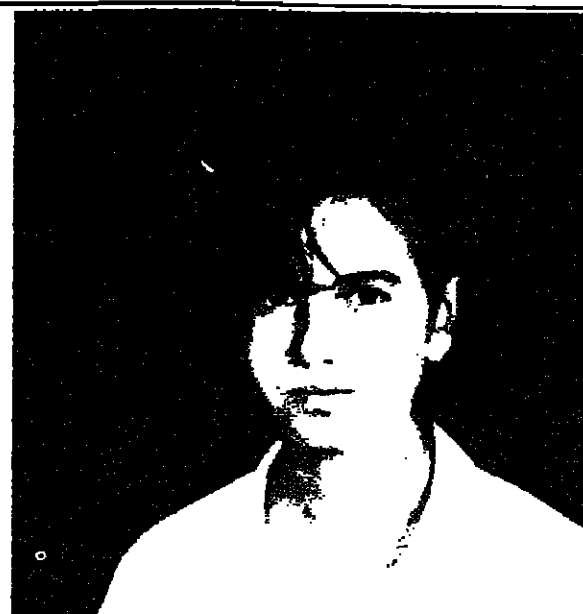
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Expanding horizons

UWC opens up new world to Jordan's students

Alia Matari: When I left Jordan for the programme I was 16. When I returned I was 18. But I felt very mature... I learned so much.



Jordan's experience in the UWC programme, she said, has met with great success.

Fifteen out of 16 students who were sent from the Kingdom to UWC Colleges completed their programmes and continued to earn bachelors degrees at Jordanian public and private universities as well as universities abroad. Two are working on the masters degrees.

Rami Issa Kandah, who graduated from the Bishop School for Boys in Amman, completed his two years at the UWC of the Atlantic. He went on to study electronic engineering at Sussex University and is currently studying for his masters in Australia.

Khaled Bdour of Prince Hassan Secondary School in Irbid went to Armand Hammer UWC and later studied physics at Yarmouk University. He is now at Virginia University working on a masters in physics.

The criteria for selection are merit, that is, academic achievement; ability to represent one's culture and ability to contribute to the college life and benefit from it. The exams are conducted in Arabic and English, and the main language of instruction at six of the colleges is English.

During March, a group from those who have taken the exams will be called for interviews individually and in a group setting of their peers on the same day. The interviewers usually include former UWC students as well as members of the National Committee.

No Israel-PLO deal

(Continued from page 1)

The Palestinians are also demanding 100 armoured vehicles fitted with machine guns, but the Israelis say they need only 30. The Israelis would prefer armoured-plated patrol cars.

Neither side said what compromises had been achieved, although chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said discussions on coordination between the Israeli army and the Palestinian police had been concluded.

He said he did not expect the agreement to be signed right away because the drafts have to go back to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and

In Jordan, the UWC National Committee is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and includes officials from the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, the Ministry of Education, cultural attaches from the embassies of participating UWC countries as well as representatives of donor countries.

The eight UWC colleges are considered international communities where young people of all races, creeds and backgrounds are given the opportunity of living and studying together. According to the UWC, students, "through their own experiences... learn about each other's cultures and societies, and in the process increase their understanding of their common humanity."

The network of UWC colleges includes: UWC of the Adriatic in Italy, UWC of the Atlantic in the U.K., UWC of South East Asia in Singapore, Armand Hammer UWC of the American West in the U.S., Lester B. Pearson UWC of the Pacific in Canada, Waterford Kamhlaba UWC of Southern Africa in Swaziland, Simon Bolivar UWC of Agriculture in Venezuela, and Li Po Chun UWC of Hong Kong.

In all the colleges the programme combines academic study with service to the local community and activities that encourage in students a sense

of responsibility and interdependence. Seven of the colleges follow the two-year programme of studies leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma which is internationally valid as a university entrance requirement.

Alia Matari completed the UWC programme at Armand Hammer in Montezuma, New Mexico in the U.S. in May 1990. Alia is a graduate of Bader Secondary School for Girls in Amman. She is currently in her junior year, majoring in French literature and minoring in political science at the University of Jordan.

For Alia, adjusting to a new cultural environment and dealing with teenagers from around the world was no problem. In fact, she told the Jordan Times, "I loved meeting other people of different backgrounds. It was an opportunity to understand and be a part of the main theme of UWC which is 'international understanding'."

Alia said the UWC coursework was challenging, but the strong focus on community service as well opened her horizons. "I joined one of the search and rescue teams which comprises New Mexico State Police and UWC students in efforts to locate missing persons." She said that once the team was called out to search for a child who was reported missing for several hours. When they found him,

she said, "it felt good to help people and to learn to cooperate with others in a joint mission."

Alia, who is a runner and the 1993 pan-Arab games Gold Medalist for the 1,500-metre event held in Syria, plans to pursue a masters in either political science or international relations. She said she will be looking into scholarships to help pay for her graduate schooling as she would like to study in the U.S.

The young athlete and undergraduate said she would encourage any interested student to compete for the UWC programme. She added that she would love to see a UWC established in the Middle East, "perhaps in Jordan."

According to Mrs. Al Farra, as a participating country, Jordan this year expects two full scholarships which cover tuition and board. A 50 per cent discount on airfare is contributed by Royal Jordanian (RJ). The other half is covered by Princess Sarvath. Students selected for the programme are responsible for their pocket money, she explained.

The National Committee makes its selection of nominees for the scholarships and sends them to the UWC by the end of April. The committee awaits information from the UWC that the nominees have been accepted. At that point, the committee notifies the students of their acceptance.

In the meantime, fundraising efforts are always under way because additional partial scholarships are sometimes offered but the National Committee is forced to decline those because the balance is hard to raise, said Mrs. Al-Farra. "A 10-year programme for tuition and board runs, depending on the college, runs between \$22-28,000."

"It is difficult to convince people to donate to a programme that works at the high school level. Many just do not realise the extraordinary experience such a programme offers our children."

Perhaps Alia summed it up best. "When I left Jordan for the programme I was 16-year-old. When I returned I was 18, but I felt very mature; I had different ideas; I learned so much; I learned how to love, not to hate people; I learned how to compromise."

Ramadan at The Marriott

From Dusk To Dawn

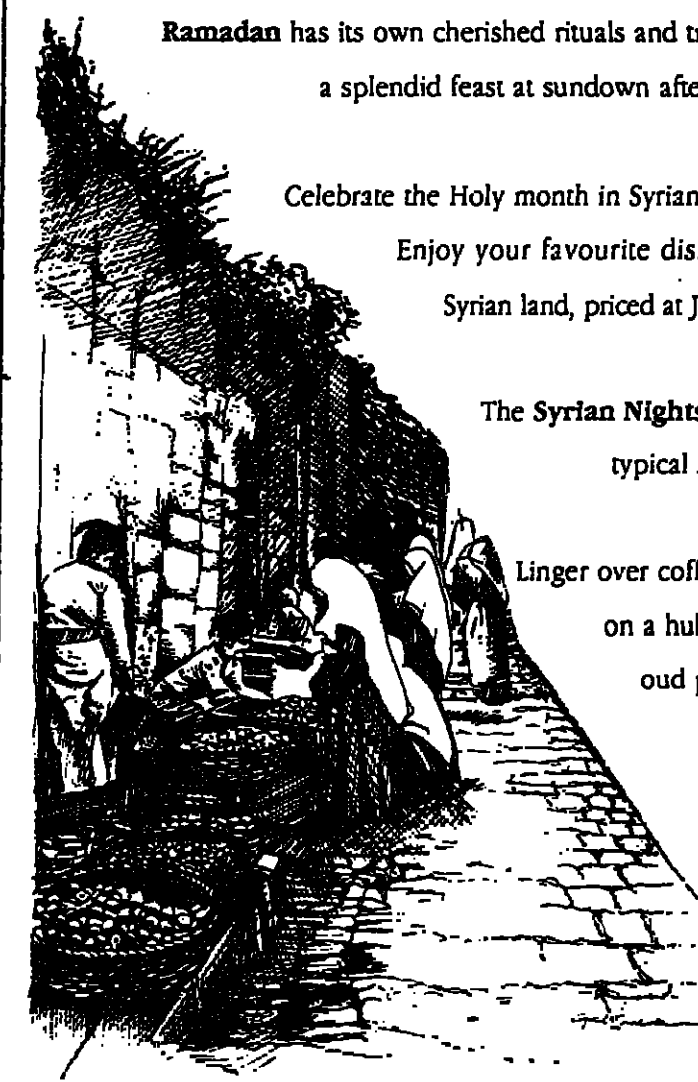
Ramadan has its own cherished rituals and traditions, that includes a splendid feast at sundown after a long day of fasting.

Celebrate the Holy month in Syrian style at the Marriott.

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P.O. Box 960651

Amman - 11196

NATO

(Continued from page 1)

request for urgent reinforcements.

— France, which has the biggest contingent of peacekeepers in ex-Yugoslavia, turned down the U.N. request.

— Serb snipers shot a Muslim civilian dead in Sarajevo in the second reported violation of a five-day old ceasefire.

Japan leaders reject charges of violating U.S. trade accord

TOKYO (R) — Japan deflected Wednesday the first American salvo in a worsening trade dispute, rejecting charges it violated an accord on cellular phones and vowing to bring any U.S. retaliation to the global trade forum GATT.

"I regret the United States unilaterally determined that our country violated the (1989) trade accord," said Post and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanazaki.

"If the (United States) adopts counter-measures against Japan as a result of the ruling, we will take appropriate measures according to international rules including GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)," Mr. Kanazaki said in a terse statement.

In the first action against Tokyo after the breakdown of last Friday's summit, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey

Kantor said in Washington that Japan broke a 1989 promise to open its cellular phone market. He said he would propose a list of retaliatory strikes within 30 days and declared such punitive measures could cost Japanese firms hundreds of millions of dollars.

The row affects a sector not covered by the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, the main forum for continuing trade dialogue. But it was widely seen as the first of a number of issues that could set the two economic giants on a collision course over Tokyo's ballooning trade surplus.

On Wednesday, the finance ministry said Japan's already huge trade surplus grew again in January to \$6.1 billion.

The figure for customs-cleared goods was up from \$5.22 billion in January 1993, and the politically explosive surplus with the United States

alone rose to \$3.13 billion from \$2.93 billion a year earlier.

Despite January's rise, economists said they expect it to drop in coming months because the high yen was making Japanese goods more expensive overseas, putting a damper on exports.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, although using more relaxed language than his postal minister, said he was worried about Mr. Kantor's talk of sanctions.

"I am sure there is no truth we violated the U.S.-Japan agreement," Mr. Hosokawa told parliament. "But I am concerned (at) the U.S. decision."

Mr. Hosokawa's spokesman said the Kantor decision did not mean immediate sanctions and Japan would wait to see what steps Washington takes after 30 days.

The 1989 agreement laid

down that the Japanese government would give U.S. companies equal access to its rapidly growing cellular phone market.

Five years later, the U.S. firm Motorola complained it sold only 12,000 phones on the densely populated Pacific seaboard linking central Nagoya with Tokyo.

Its main rival, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) Corp. sold 310,000 units in the same area.

The Japanese firm at the heart of the dispute denied it was involved in any government attempt to freeze out Motorola.

A spokesman for Nippon Ido Tsushin Corp. (IDO), which sells Motorola's cellular phone system in Japan, said the U.S. firm's inability to crack the Pacific seaboard market was the result solely of business, not political, decisions.

IDO handles both Motorola and NTT systems because a pre-1989 industry arrangement had already carved up the cellular phone market by zones and wavelengths.

U.S.-Japan row affects Asian markets

HONG KONG (R) — Uncertainty throughout the region over the focus and force of the ballooning trade row between Japan and the United States affected most markets in a day of patchy trade.

In Seoul, good news was found in the decision of North Korea to allow inspections of its suspected nuclear facilities. But elsewhere the day's trading was uninspired.

Tokyo's Nikkei recovered slightly but a lack of fresh news on the Japan-U.S. trade row sidelined investors, leaving the Nikkei hovering around 19,100.

The Nikkei average closed at 19,052.11, up 77.51 points, or 0.41 per cent. The Nikkei would have closed these levels until fresh developments emerge in the trade issue, brokers said.

"Tokyo shares defend on what happens to the exchange rate overnight as the trade row unfolds in the U.S.," said Jonathan Davis, broker at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

The yen ranged between 102 and 104 to the dollar during the day. There was support at 102.50, and market analysts said it would probably ease toward 101.90. Traders said the market was confused in the

light of the deadlock in U.S.-Japan trade.

Seoul shrugged off the trade worries of its neighbour, displaying a healthy interest in blue chip manufacturing.

There was improved investor sentiment in reaction to North Korea's decision to accept international inspection of its nuclear sites which pushed stocks sharply higher, brokers said.

The composite stock index closed 18.62 points, or 2.06 per cent, higher on 920.43. Brokers said blue chips continued to attract investors' appetite on the back of the strong yen against the dollar.

In Hong Kong, a sharp fall before the close led the Hang Seng index to close at 10,634.14 despite an initial 107-point jump to a high of 11,119.51.

"U.S. and British interests have continued to sell local stocks today and there was a rush before the close to complete sizeable sell orders placed earlier in the day," said Simon Chin, a vice president at Citibank Global Asset Management.

Gold eased slightly in Hong Kong, ending at 383.40/90 an ounce against New York's 383.70/384.20 Tuesday close. It

had opened in Hong Kong at 382.90/383.40.

In Sydney, stronger overseas bourses helped lift the market to a higher close, reversing the falls of the last two days. The All Ordinaries closed up 15 points at 2249.0 off a 2253.1 high.

One analyst said investors are awaiting the outcome of the U.S.-Japan trade impasse but are "a little more relaxed" about effects on the Australian market.

Taiwan's brokers attributed early gains to bargain-hunting after two previous days of falls and the Tokyo market's recovery, but again, investors lacked confidence.

"People worry about uncertainties — Taiwan-U.S. trade talks next week on the central bank's monetary policy," said Barry Lin of Jardine Fleming.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are likely to be a small number of minor annoyances in the early hours today but they depart as the day grows longer and we get further from the Moon square Mars aspect of the early A.M.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Ideal day to enjoy recreation with people you like. Put that skill to work also that is exclusively yours. Try not to get too bed to late tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Doing whatever will please family the most, such as buying little gifts that show your thoughtfulness, is wise in the morning.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Ideal day for that little trip you have long wanted to take, or for working on mechanical things that appeal to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on how to add to present security in ethical and clever way. Listen to what an expert has to suggest.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are clever and magnetic today and can accomplish much through these traits, so get busy contacting key people. Entertaining or being entertained is favoured.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have some good plan that can be put in motion easily during the coming days. Talk over the principles of same

with those you want to work along with you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Ideal day to get out of regular rut and enjoy the company of good friends you like. Repay some social obligation you may have and show generosity of spirit.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Contact that big early who can assist you with some worthy affairs that means much to you. Put credit matters behind you with alacrity and efficiency.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Ideal day to get out to new scenes and personalities that can be helpful to you. Contact persons who can make your advancement easier.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use your intuition and clear up those problems you have in a most astute fashion. Make sure you do not hurt one who is a friend, though.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Sit down early with associates and decide on future action which will lead to greater success. Being more tactful rid you of any opposition you may have.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Ideal day to get much of that accumulated tasks completed and out of the way early. Adding comforts to home is important. Plan how to have more leisure in the future.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Sun enters Pisces today with a triple moon square to the Sun, Saturn and Mercury which sets us a bumpy course where we are easily distracted from the plans we have already set in motion.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Ideal day to investigate the philosophy that will make your life happier in the future. Then step out with people you admire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have planned certain activities with kin, and there is no better day for them than now. Make sure life far happier by right thinking and right acting.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day to sit down leisurely with associates and dine while making better plans for the future. Do not neglect visiting with your good friend.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think big and can make plans for increasing income in the future. Sit down with financial experts who are at leisure and get good ideas from them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Good day to be with people you really like for recreation. Take the time to improve your appearance so that you make a big hit with everyone.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There are promises you have made that need to be kept today, or chores that must be done, so get at them. Use vision in planning the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Ideal day to enjoy the company of friends you like and admire. Repaying some social obligation is good so that you are extended further invitations.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to sit with some bigwig you know and get the advice data and backing you need. Some civic task today could prove to be most helpful to you and the community.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Any interest you may have in some modern way of living can be investigated now and the best of such adopted. Good day to plan some little trip you have your heart set on.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do those things that bring you added favours from those who are of great assistance to you. Show that you are appreciative of their goodwill.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can come to a better understanding with associates in your home today than you can in the office. Contact those you want in your life in the days ahead, also.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are some tasks you can get done today that should not be put off until another time. Those around you can be most helpful at this time.

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

ACROSS

- 1 Become limp
- 2 Mine entrance
- 3 Inventor
- 4 "L..." (TV)
- 5 Cotton package
- 6 Slow, in music
- 7 Spanish boy
- 8 Out of the wind
- 9 Zodiac sign
- 10 Mexican sandwich
- 11 Robinson Crusoe's creator
- 12 Unusually lucky
- 13 Said further
- 14 Happen to
- 15 Quench
- 16 Baby's bed
- 17 Cook
- 18 Three Wise Men
- 19 Cautious
- 20 Biblical preposition
- 21 Divisible by two
- 22 Domestic
- 23 Super!
- 24 Walk like a duck
- 25 Improve
- 26 Sympathetic attention
- 27 Ridiculous
- 28 Cat...
- 29 Audacity
- 30 Copper solution
- 31 Neighbor's kid?
- 32 "monster"
- 33 Towel cloth
- 34 Tree trunk
- 35 At any time
- 36 Derris case item
- 37 Privy to
- 38 Tear apart

DOWN

- 1 Desire
- 2 Homer epic
- 3 Spear's fun
- 4 Poker holding
- 5 Degraded
- 6 Spanish surrealist
- 7 Holly
- 8 Allied to the
- 9 Tortoise's rival
- 10 "..." go brag!
- 11 Bad time for Caesar
- 12 Stood up
- 13 Palate
- 14 Pastime
- 15 Psalm by Keats
- 16 Cation sound
- 17 Play
- 18 Homer
- 19 "Rule Britannia" composer
- 20 "..." smile be...
- 21 Booty
- 22 Crested duck
- 23 Volcano output
- 24 Grey older
- 25 Argued
- 26 Deluded
- 27 Slew
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- 47 Slew
- 48 Slew
- 49 Slew
- 50 Slew
- 51 Slew
- 52 Slew
- 53 Slew
- 54 Slew
- 55 Christmas song
- 56 Concerning
- 57 South Wolf
- 58 Golf club
- 59 French composer
- 60 Fat

Puzzle Solved:

BAIRN BAITIT APY
FIRE ELANDS RTO
AMERICAN AMERICA
PIA SHUR
OATS DRAMA OSTE
TROUS MEGADOSE
TROTATORIA
ODE RUE EIR EFA
AUTHORATHOR
RATRAPR SOUSE
EALR EBERT EYTA
EALR EALR EYTA
VICTORVICTOR EYTA
THE SEINE RINT
BAS SONGS SAGE

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مجموعة موسيقى الصالة المعهد الوطني للموسيقى
The Chamber Ensemble of the National Music Conservatory



Armen Arsenian
flute
Ali Shazki
clarinet
Mohammad Ali Abbas
violin/viola
Ali Musa
cello
Mohammad Othman
piano

في ليلة موسيقية
In a musical evening
الساعة الثامنة والنصف من مساء يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 17/2/94
المركز الثقافي العربي - قاعة الرئيسية
Tuesday, 22 February 1994 - 8:30 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
يتضمن البرنامج مقطوعات لـ: هاندل وبيتهوفن وموتسارت
وليست وفورير وبراهمز
In the programme are pieces by: Haydn, Telemann,
Mozart, Liszt, Faure and Brahms.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasberg



"I'm checking to see if they can surgically remove old girlfriends from a man's brain."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TILIM
DEYNE
THROCC
SNORPI

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

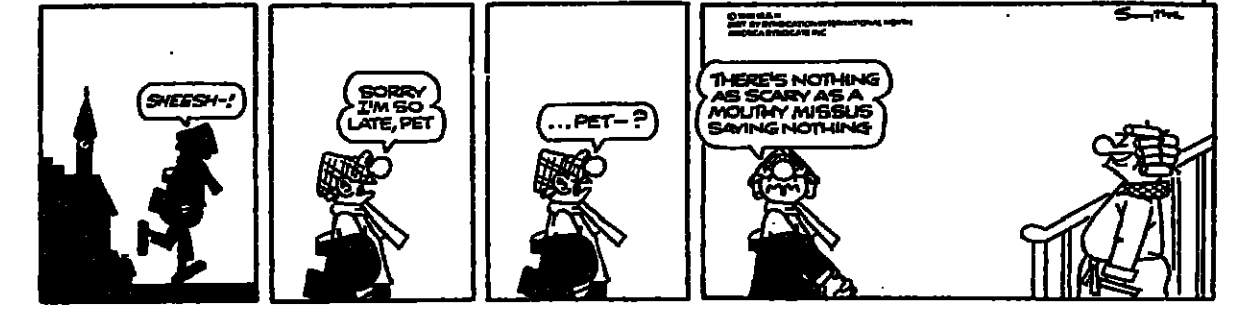
Answers: Monday

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUAKE CURIO BRANCH BYGONE
Answer: How the tough guys played golf — IN THE ROUGH

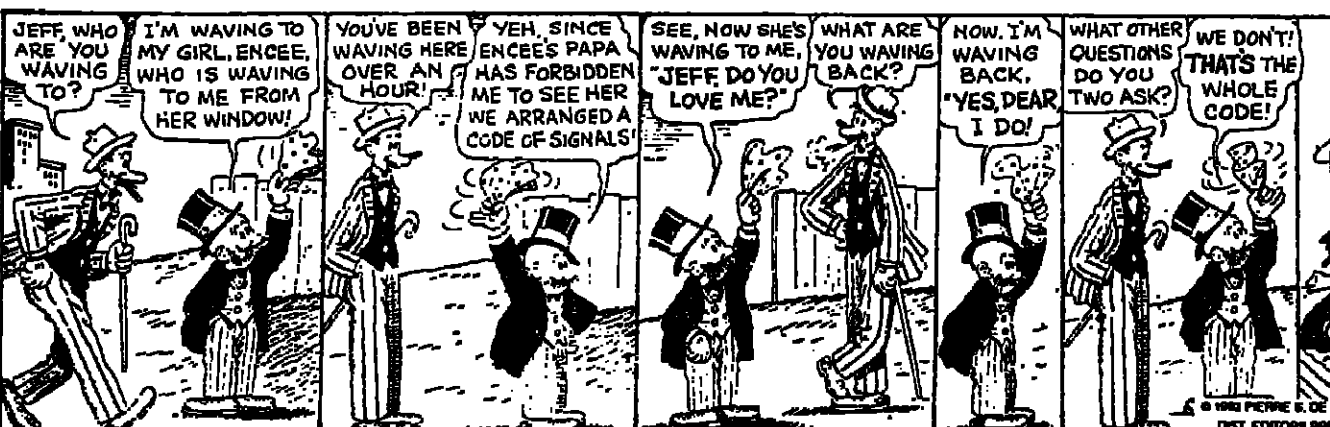
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



S. Korea, U.S. and Japan welcome IAEA-N. Korea accord

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea, the United States and Japan Wednesday welcomed North Korea's decision to allow international inspection of its nuclear sites, but cautioned that the impasse over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme was not yet over.

The sigh of relief came after North Korea agreed to inspections at seven declared nuclear sites just six days ahead of a deadline that could have led to U.N. sanctions and an unpredictable reaction from the closed Stalinist regime.

The move to accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections after a tense year-long standoff, defused the immediate crisis and relieved many South Koreans who increasingly feared that the impasse might lead to war.

"We just managed to tide over confrontation, although there remain many other obstacles to get over," said Chung Jong-Wook, a top South Korean presidential security advisor.

But Mr. Chung and other South Korean officials cautioned that the crisis would resurface unless nuclear transparency was secured fully through inter-Korean nuclear inspections and the North's commitment to denuclearisation.

And a presidential statement said there would be no immediate decision as to whether

to suspend the massive joint U.S.-South Korean military wargames, code-named "Team Spirit," a long-standing demand of Pyongyang.

In Tokyo, within range of the Rodong-1 nuclear-capable missile that North Korea tested last summer, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Take-mura said "inspections of nuclear materials at undeclared facilities will be necessary."

And in Washington White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said: "We hope they follow through on it. What is important is action on the ground."

At the crux of the fears are two facilities at a nuclear complex at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, which North Korea insists are non-nuclear military installations and outside the purview of the IAEA.

South Korean and Western experts say the two sites, which are not covered by Tuesday's agreement and so will not be inspected by IAEA this week, are used for processing and storing weapons-grade plutonium.

"This is only a beginning," South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Hong Soon-Yong said, demanding North Korea return completely to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Many Seoul-based diplomats agreed.

"The problem has been

pushed bit further down the road," commented one Western diplomat. "Back to square one," said another, referring to the North's threat in March of 1993 to pull out of the NPT.

That move drew Washington, technically still at war with North Korea since the 1950-53 Korean conflict, into see-saw talks with Pyongyang, promising improved ties and economic cooperation if the North yields and threatening to deploy Patriot missiles in the South if it resists.

Said one veteran South Korean reporter: "They did the least possible at the last possible minute."

South Korea expressed hope that the two Koreas can now resume a suspended inter-Korean dialogue, a pre-condition for further high-level talks with Washington.

"The talks can be held before or after the results (of this week's inspections) are out," the South Korean vice minister said.

An estimated 10 million Koreans have been separated from their families since the war by the demilitarised zone that cuts through the Korean peninsula at the 38th Parallel.

Also waiting in the wings are South Korean business conglomerates whose hopes of entering North Korea's cheap-labour economic zones have been stalled by the nuclear impasse.

For the 36,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, there was no prospect of an early decision on Team Spirit.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam issued a statement Wednesday saying a decision on the exercise would only be taken "in the light of the results of further talks between the IAEA and North Korea, including inspection procedures and timetable."

"We must keep watching the negotiations to find out the final outcome," he said, as reports from Vienna indicated a six- or seven-member IAEA team would leave for Pyongyang and Yongbyon within the next few days.

South Korean officials said that improvement in inter-Korean relations could start with an exchange of special presidential envoys to discuss peace on the Korean peninsula.

Both Pyongyang and Seoul have indicated that the first ever summit between the two Koreas could be arranged through the exchange of special envoys.

Presidential advisor Chung said "working-level contacts (with the North) will be possible as early as next week."

In a speech to parliament, Prime Minister Lee Hoi-Chang expressed hope that a humanitarian programme would be launched to expedite the reunion of separated Korean families.



President F.W. de Klerk and the Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini meet the press in Durban City Hall (AFP photo)

Police, ANC protesters clash; 15 hurt

STANDERTON, South Africa (AFP) — At least 15 people were injured Wednesday in a clash between police and African National Congress (ANC) supporters, peace monitors and police said.

The ANC march to protest against right-wing plans to make Standerton part of a proposed Afrikaans "Volkstaat" — a white homeland — was banned by the town's chief magistrate after white extremists threatened to disrupt it.

Around 200 members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) gathered at the town's cattle auction pens to block the march, but police managed to keep the two groups apart.

Warrant officer Izak Van Zyl, a police spokesman, said one of the injured was a police major who was hit on the head when protesters stoned security forces trying to prevent them from leaving the Sakhile black township for the illegal march into Standerton.

Police repulsed waves of demonstrators with teargas and rubber bullets, witnesses told AFP.

Failing to break the police cordon, the demonstrators looted a liquor store and some nearby shops, burned a pickup truck and erected burning tyre barricades inside Sakhile.

A stand-off then developed between the protesters and a large and heavily armed police contingent, with the ANC supporters trying alternative routes to leave the township, but with little success.

Aware of the AWB presence, some of the ANC protesters carried posters reading: "Boer — Holland is your Boerestaat," and "Terre-Blanche, are you a Christian? No you are a white devil."

The posters were references, respectively, to the Dutch origins of many of the Afrikaners — or Boers — and to AWB leader Eugene Terre-Blanche.

The ANC has also launched a boycott of all shops in the town and several businesses were evacuated Monday and Tuesday after bomb scares.

Few shops were open Wednesday in this southeastern Transvaal town in anticipation of clashes.

Police Wednesday reported another three deaths in violence-torn black townships east of Johannesburg, where army troops were deployed on Feb. 1 in a bid to halt the carnage.

They also reported the wounding of two traffic officers who were fired upon Wednesday morning by the occupants of a vehicle they pulled over on the outskirts of the Kaitshong, one of the main flashpoints.

One of the officers was in a serious condition, police said. The attackers fled after bystanders came to the aid of the policemen and returned fire at the vehicle.

In their daily report on political violence, police said they found the decomposing body of a man in Kaitshong, which until the troop deployment was regarded as the most volatile township in South Africa.

The bodies of two women were found in adjoining Phola Park Shanty town, police added. Both had been shot dead.

Political violence in the East Rand townships claimed 1,622 lives last year, a factor which prompted President F.W. de Klerk and the African National Congress late last month to hammer out a comprehensive peace plan for the area.

Apart from the deployment of troops, a programme to reconstruct damaged houses and restore basic services to the community has been launched.

In a separate development, the African National Congress (ANC) said Tuesday that the restoration of the Zulu kingdom would be against the tide of South Africa's history, while President De Klerk said he still hoped the issue could be successfully negotiated.

Both were responding to Monday's demand by King Goodwill Zwelithini for the restoration of the Zulu kingdom to its 1834 borders, and its sovereignty from the democratic South Africa, to emerge from the April 26-28 first race election.

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The new advisers will be in addition to 88 handpicked by Beijing last year as the row between China and Britain escalated over governor Patten's proposals to widen the electoral franchise in Hong Kong of China's takeover in 1997.

Half of the 88 have already served their one-year terms and will be reappointed on March 2 by Chinese Premier Li Peng in a ceremony in Shenzhen close to the border with Hong Kong.

Adm. Kelso denied that Mr. Perry or Navy Secretary John Dalton, who also praised him in a statement, had sought his retirement. He said he would not have retired early without the laudatory statements issued by the civilian leadership.

"But I want to make clear that Secretary Perry has not absolved the admiral because he could not legally do that," said one Pentagon official. "He simply pointed out the conflicts between the inspector general and the judge."

The judge, Captain William Vest, said in an opinion in Norfolk, Virginia, that because Adm. Kelso had allegedly witnessed misbehaviour during his Tailhook visit, he had no authority to appoint Vice Admiral Paul Reason to oversee the subsequent probe. Capt. Vest suggested that was part of a cover-up by Adm. Kelso.

Maradona rules in fake Italian election poll

ROME (R) — A fake party led by Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona would win five million votes in Italy's elections next month, according to researchers who say Italians are so confused about politics that opinion polls mean nothing.

The Directa Institute said it had slipped the fictitious "Avanti Italia" (Forward Italy) Party, "led" by Maradona, into a telephone survey of 800 eligible voters. "Of those interviewed, 10.8 per cent... said they supported the Maradona party," Directa said. The percentage corresponds to about five million of the 48.4 million Italians eligible to vote in the March 27-28 election. "This extraordinary result demonstrates once again the state of uncertainty and confusion among Italians a little over a month before the elections," Directa said. "It also confirms... the total unreliability of any opinion polls conducted now, even if they are statistically correct." The elections, which will follow two years of corruption scandals that have devastated Italy's political old guard, have thrown up a plethora of new parties and alliances. Other polls show around 40 per cent support for a rightwing alliance led by the "Forza Italia" (Go Italy) Party of media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi and about 35 per cent for a broad left grouping led by the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left. Directa said last week that it had found two thirds of voters had not decided which party or alliance to back.

Jury finds for Michael Jackson in copyright trial

DENVER (R) — A jury in the copyright infringement suit brought against Michael Jackson ruled Tuesday that the pop star did not steal the 1991 hit song Dangerous from a Denver songwriter.

The four-man jury deliberated less than three hours before reaching its verdict. "It's three out of three," said Los Angeles lawyer Eve Wagner, Jackson's representative. Ms. Wagner said Jackson won a copyright infringement case in Chicago in 1983 and a similar case last month in Los Angeles. "We're glad justice has been done," she said, after the five-day trial. Jackson testified Monday that he did not steal the song from Crystal Carter, 38, who had sued him for copyright infringement. It was Jackson's first appearance in court since the 1983 Chicago lawsuit. Jackson even sang part of Dangerous from the witness stand and a few bars from another song to illustrate how he creates songs. Dangerous is on an album of the same name and, which has sold more than 14 million copies.

Bee Gee tour axed as Barry Gibb has heart checks

LONDON (AFP) — British-born pop supremos, the Bee Gees called off their spring tour of Europe after it emerged that singer Barry Gibb is suffering from heart trouble.

Michael Eaton, the group's lawyer, said they did not know the nature or seriousness of the complaint, but hoped to get the result of tests Wednesday. "We don't think it's going to stop him doing most things, but certainly it would be unwise to tour until all the tests have been completed," he said. Mr. Eaton estimated it could cost the group up to £250,000 (\$370,000) to call off the tour. The three-man group, whose album Saturday Night Fever was the most popular ever until Michael Jackson's Thriller, was due to go on tour in mid-April with about 15 dates in Germany, three in London and a few in other countries.

Woman sues hospital for rupturing hymen

SEOUL (AP) — A 40-year-old woman has sued a medical institute for \$92,600 in damages on a claim that her hymen was ruptured during a medical exam, the Korean National News Agency Yonhap reported Wednesday.

The woman, identified only as Chung, is a 40-year-old office worker. Ms. Chung claims the Korea Medical Institute should have informed her prior to the exam that it would result in ripping her hymen, which she says she "values more than her life," Yonhap reported.

Quake kills at least 117 in Indonesia

BANDAR LAMPUNG, Indonesia (R) — A powerful earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale hit a mountainous area of Indonesia's Sumatra Island Wednesday, killing at least 117 people, a regional official said.

"At least 117 people were killed in the Liwa area, 450 were injured seriously and 500 not so seriously," Tarmizi Ali, a regional official in Bandar Lampung, told Reuters.

"The situation is very confused," he said in the provincial capital, 120 kilometres from Liwa.

"There is no electricity or telephone in Liwa. The place is cut off and we are worried that the toll will rise further," he added.

About 75 per cent of Liwa, which has a population of up to 100,000, was believed damaged when the quake struck shortly after midnight.

Meteorological officials in Jakarta, on neighbouring Java Island, said the quake measured 6.5 on the open-ended Richter Scale. The U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado said it measured 7.2.

The epicentre was in the Indian Ocean, about 450 kilometres southwest of Jakarta.

Officials in Bandar Lampung said roads and bridges in the region were damaged, hampering relief efforts.

The quake, felt in Singapore and Jakarta, struck at 12:07 a.m. (1707 GMT Tuesday) when most people were asleep.

It was the most deadly earthquake in the Indonesian archipelago since December 1992, when more than 2,000 people were killed on the island of Flores east of Bali.

Mr. Clinton used a trip to a police training academy in this midwestern city to signal his determination to come to grips with crime, now the top concern of the American people.

"If Congress will pass this bill soon I will respond by cutting through red tape... so that within a year 20,000 new police officers are hired and start the training that they need to make our streets safer," Mr. Clinton said.

But in Washington, Mr. Clinton came under fire directly from a former top Justice Department official who denounced the rush to adopt costly, get-tough, anti-crime bills that will do little to improve public safety.

Former Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann strongly criticised the idea supported by Mr. Clinton in his State of the Union address calling for mandatory life prison sentences for anyone with a third felony conviction.

He called the idea "feel-good lawmaking" and said it would cost the government \$600,000 to \$700,000 per inmate.

Mr. Heymann, who resigned after a personality clash with Attorney General Janet Reno, declined to criticise directly Mr. Reno, Mr. Clinton or lawmakers in Congress by name.

Clinton urges Congress to move fast on crime bill

LONDON, Ohio (R) — President Bill Clinton, saying Americans have waited long enough, urged Congress Tuesday to give quick approval to an anti-crime bill that would pay for 100,000 more police by cutting government bureaucrats.

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China will not stop Hong Kong polls — Patten

CANBERRA (AFP) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten vowed here Wednesday to press on with legislation guaranteeing credible elections for the British colony in 1994/5 — with or without Chinese agreement.

He told the National Press Club that despite 17 rounds of fruitless negotiations with Beijing, he still hoped to win agreement for elections which China would honour after it regains sovereignty of Hong Kong in 1997.

"But a bad agreement, by which I mean an agreement which did not guarantee credible elections in 1995, would be very bad indeed for Hong Kong," he said.

"Should it not prove possible to reach agreement with China, then we will have to proceed with legislation."

Britain's democratisation proposals for the colony have been the major focus of interest during all Mr. Patten's public appearances in a six-day official visit to Australia aimed at promoting bilateral trade.

He told an audience mostly of journalists here he was often asked why Britain was introducing democracy in Hong Kong at the eleventh hour.

"My answer is simple," he said. "We're not."

The principle of democracy was incorporated in the joint Sino-British declaration which declared that "the legislature of the Hong Kong special administrative region shall be constituted by elections."

The document also guaranteed rights such as freedom of speech, press, assembly, travel, movement, strike, religious belief and ownership of property and enterprises would be protected by law.

"I regard it as my task to do everything I can to protect and enhance those features of Hong Kong's life today and to safeguard them for the future," he said, adding that Britain had a duty to achieve this as a signatory to the joint declaration.

The argument with China was not about democracy, but about whether the final elections under British sovereignty would be fair.

He said Hong Kong's United Democrats which swept the board at the 1991 elections had been consistent in their demands for an increase in the

number of directly elected Legislative Council seats.

Meanwhile, China's begun seeking another 200 advisers from among grassroots institutions in Hong Kong, it was reported in Hong Kong Wednesday.

Selection of advisers from district boards, urban councils and community organisations are being handled by Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto government representation in the territory.

The Beijing-run Hong Kong Commercial Daily said the list of candidates to advise central government will be submitted to Beijing for approval next month.

The new advisers will be in addition to 88 handpicked by Beijing last year as the row between China and Britain escalated over governor Patten's proposals to widen the electoral franchise in Hong Kong of China's takeover in 1997.

Half of the 88 have already served their one-year terms and will be reappointed on March 2 by Chinese Premier Li Peng in a ceremony in Shenzhen close to the border with Hong Kong.

Adm. Kelso denied that Mr. Perry or Navy Secretary John Dalton, who also praised him in a statement, had sought his retirement. He said he would not have retired early without the laudatory statements issued by the civilian leadership.

"But I want to make clear that Secretary Perry has not absolved the admiral because he could not legally do that," said one Pentagon official. "He simply pointed out the conflicts between the inspector general and the judge."

The judge, Captain William Vest, said in an opinion in Norfolk, Virginia, that because Adm. Kelso had allegedly witnessed misbehaviour during his Tailhook visit, he had no authority to appoint Vice Admiral Paul Reason to oversee the subsequent probe. Capt. Vest suggested that was part of a cover-up by Adm. Kelso.

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U.S. congressman urges Burmese rulers to meet Aung San Suu Kyi

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's military rulers are considering a meeting between their powerful intelligence chief, Lieutenant General Khin Myunt, and dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson said Wednesday.

"I think the future of Burma will be determined by two people: Khin Myunt and Aung San Suu Kyi," Mr. Richardson (Democrat-New Mexico) told a news conference here.

He refused to speculate on whether the meeting would actually take place, although he had told the New York Times Tuesday that he was "cautiously optimistic" the proposal would be accepted.

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi told him she was prepared to open a high-level dialogue with the authorities, but would continue to resist pressure to leave the country.

"She made clear her determination to remain in Burma and pursue efforts to establish a democratic, representative government responsive to the needs of the people," Mr. Richardson said.

Fresh from a series of separate meetings in Rangoon with the dissident, in her fifth year of house arrest, and Gen. Khin Myunt, Mr. Richardson said the ruling junta realised it must deal with Aung San Suu Kyi if Burma is to gain international

acceptance.

"She has to be part of any kind of political evolution there," he said. "She has become an international symbol. I think the SLORC realises that."

Mr. Richardson quoted Gen. Khin Myunt as saying the military junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), would meet in the next few days to "consider authorising him (Khin Myunt) to engage in talks with her."

Mr. Richardson, the first outsider to be allowed to meet Aung San Suu Kyi in almost five years, said he was "not clear" on whether her house arrest would be extended, as announced in Rangoon Tuesday.

The dissident told him she had been notified of an additional year of detention. However, Lieutenant General Khin Myunt said it was "too early for a final decision to be made," Mr. Richardson added.

Mr. Richardson said the key to Burma's future was a face-to-face meeting, which he described as a "pre-dialogue."

"The SLORC made very clear to me that talks do not mean political dialogue. However, it is my view that it is important to get these two

major players on the Burmese scene together, to get to know each other," he said.

Such a meeting, he believed, would enable the United States and other members of the international community to respond with a gesture toward the Burmese government.

If Gen. Khin Myunt and Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi met, "some modest step on the part of the United States I think would be appropriate," he said.

But, he stressed, "we need to see deeds and not just words" before easing U.S. policy.

Mr. Richardson said he had asked the SLORC to allow other international figures, including representatives of the United Nations and the International Red Cross to see Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and other prisoners of conscience in detention.

He called for the release of four political detainees he visited Tuesday in Rangoon's Insein Jail, expressing concern about their mental and physical health.

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Burmese independence hero Aung San, was put house arrest in July 1989 for repeated public criticism of the military government that seized power in September 1988 and crushed a nationwide pro-democracy movement.

Top U.S. admiral to retire in sex-scandal fallout

WASHINGTON (R) — Navy Commandant Admiral Frank Kelso changed course and said he will retire early because he has become a lightning rod for controversy in a sexual misconduct scandal that has shaken the navy.

Adm. Kelso, 60, the chief of naval operations and a member of the joint Chiefs of Staff, said only last Friday he would not leave early in connection with the 1991 Tailhook Association Convention scandal in Las Vegas involving the molestation of women by male navy and Marine pilots.

But he told reporters at a press conference Tuesday he was now satisfied that his own integrity had been preserved by a statement issued two hours earlier by Defence Secretary William Perry virtually absolving Adm. Kelso of direct knowledge of the Tailhook events or of trying to cover them up.

"I have become the lightning rod for Tailhook... and the lightning keeps striking. It is time for me to go away and let the navy a new leader," Adm. Kelso told reporters in his

office, surrounded by mementos of a 37-year navy career.

"The lightning rod is gone," Senior defence officials said Tuesday night that Mr. Perry had recommended that President Bill Clinton retire Adm. Kelso in his current four-star rank and would ask Mr. Clinton to nominate Admiral Jeremy Boorda, commander of Southern NATO Forces, to replace Adm. Kelso.

Adm. Boorda, 55, who is based in Naples, Italy, and is in charge of NATO air power threatening Serb gunners around Sarajevo, would become the first chief of naval operations, to rise through the ranks from being an enlisted man to the navy's top job if he is approved by the Senate.

Adm. Kelso vowed only last week that he would not quit after a navy judge threw out the last three Tailhook cases pending against officers on grounds that Adm. Kelso's own alleged misconduct had undermined his authority to order up the Tailhook investigation.

Adm. Kelso angrily denied

the judge's assertion that he had witnessed such rowdy behaviour as fliers behaving women's legs when he visited the convention, did nothing about it and then manipulated the investigation to cover up his role when the affair mushroomed into a public scandal.

But the admiral reversed course on the retirement issue Tuesday after Perry issued a statement praising him and noting that the navy's inspector general had found no evidence implicating Adm. Kelso in Tailhook misconduct.

"I regard Admiral Kelso as a man of the highest integrity and honour," Mr. Perry said.

Although no one was ever convicted by court-martial despite complaints from several dozens of women, former Navy Secretary William Garrett resigned after the scandal broke and seven other admirals took early retirement.

Senior Pentagon officials told Reuters privately they were happy with that amounted to a high-level deal to achieve Adm. Kelso's sym-

bollic early departure as well, because his refusal to go would have resulted in another major investigation into the conflicts over what he knew and when he knew it.

Adm. Kelso denied that Mr. Perry or Navy Secretary John Dalton, who also praised him in a statement, had sought his retirement. He said he would not have retired early without the laudatory statements issued by the civilian leadership.

"But I want to make clear that Secretary Perry has not absolved the admiral because he could not legally do that," said one Pentagon official. "He simply pointed out the conflicts between the inspector general and the judge."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Johnson's supplier pleads innocent

TAMPA, Florida (AFP) — Jamie Astaphan, who supplied Ben Johnson the steroids that led to the Canadian sprinter being stripped of his 100m Olympic gold medal in Seoul, pleaded innocent here Tuesday to charges of plotting to sell cocaine and steroids. Trial was tentatively set for an undetermined April date and Astaphan, who has a medical office in Toronto, will remain in jail awaiting a detention hearing on federal charges of importing steroids and conspiracy to distribute a cocaine-steroid mixture. Federal officials have issued a warrant for Astaphan, from St. Kitts, was arrested last month in New York due to bad weather. Astaphan has also pleaded innocent to a related federal indictment in Buffalo, New York charging him with selling 1,300 vials of steroids to undercover agents for \$44,000.

Maradona offered chance to play

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona, adamant that he still has a future in soccer, could play for local side San Lorenzo this weekend against Brazil's world club champions Sao Paulo, local press reported Tuesday. San Lorenzo president Fernando Miele says he hopes to fill the club's new 43,000 capacity stadium Sunday but faces the prospects of missing out on lucrative gate receipts because Sao Paulo will leave many of their stars at home. Miele, who expressed interest in Maradona just hours after he was sacked by Newell's Old Boys two weeks ago, told local radio that he would also like to sign him until the end of the season. "When he was on the verge of signing for us he opted for Newell's," Miele said. "But now things are different and he could play for San Lorenzo." Maradona, who faces criminal charges after firing an air rifle at journalists two weeks ago, has said he still hopes to play in the World Cup finals in July.

Zico to quit J-League

TOKYO (AFP) — Brazilian legend Zico, the guiding light of Japan's emerging professional football league, will hang up his boots in June. Zico, 41 next month, will leave the Kashima Antlers and retire from playing when the first half of the 1994 J-League season ends June 18, club Director Hiroshi Ushijima said. But Ushijima also introduced to the press Zico's 47-year-old brother Edu, as the head coach for the Antlers for the new season due to open March 12. "The team is well-balanced and good with Zico around. So I feel a little anxious but I believe now there are players who can pick up where Zico will leave off," Edu said. Zico first quit football and became Brazil's first sports minister in 1989 after playing in the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups. But he returned to competition in 1991 when he signed a three-year contract with Sumitomo, which later became the Kashima Antlers when the J-League kicked off last year. Zico and Kashima's two other Brazilian transplants, Alcindo and Santos, were to return to Japan next week after a vacation in Brazil.

Fresh setback for Tapie

VALENCIENNES, France (AFP) — The French judiciary further tightened the screws on Bernard Tapie Tuesday, when a judge refused to drop demands that he quit as Olympique Marseille boss. Tapie was placed under investigation for alleged corruption last Thursday, following allegations that Marseille had tried to rig a league match against Valenciennes last season. He was also placed under judicial control, the terms of which were to pay bail of 250,000 francs (\$42,000), quit the club by April 20 and not to talk to anyone else implicated in the affair. Tapie, who has also been accused of trying to interfere with witnesses, tried to have all three restrictions lifted but judge Bernard Befy has rejected his demand.

World final awarded to Indonesia

NEW YORK (AFP) — Jakarta will host the ATP world doubles championship for the next two years — the first time since 1970 that an official year-ending men's tennis event will be contested in Asia. The \$1.3 million event, which is open to the top eight teams in tour rankings, will take place from November 23-27. The world doubles final had been conducted in Johannesburg for the past three years. "This decision represents a significant step for the ATP," said ATP chief executive officer Mark Miles. "Tennis South Africa has decided to shift their focus to grassroots programmes and we're excited about the potential in Indonesia." The ATP will organise and promote the event, which will be seen in 80 nations and which will take place at the Senayan Tennis Stadium. South Africa will continue to host an ATP event in April at Sun City.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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WHERE ARE THE TRICKS?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 4 3 2
♥ 10 9 7 6
♦ 10 9 8 7
♣ 8 7 4

EAST
♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 7 8
♣ 10 9 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A 9
♥ K 10 5 4 2
♦ K 5 2
♣ Q 8

The bidding:
South: 1♠, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥, 5♥, 6♥, 7♥, 8♥, 9♥, 10♥, 11♥, 12♥, 13♥, 14♥, 15♥, 16♥, 17♥, 18♥, 19♥, 20♥, 21♥, 22♥, 23♥, 24♥, 25♥, 26♥, 27♥, 28♥, 29♥, 30♥, 31♥, 32♥, 33♥, 34♥, 35♥, 36♥, 37♥, 38♥, 39♥, 40♥, 41♥, 42♥, 43♥, 44♥, 45♥, 46♥, 47♥, 48♥, 49♥, 50♥, 51♥, 52♥, 53♥, 54♥, 55♥, 56♥, 57♥, 58♥, 59♥, 60♥, 61♥, 62♥, 63♥, 64♥, 65♥, 66♥, 67♥, 68♥, 69♥, 70♥, 71♥, 72♥, 73♥, 74♥, 75♥, 76♥, 77♥, 78♥, 79♥, 80♥, 81♥, 82♥, 83♥, 84♥, 85♥, 86♥, 87♥, 88♥, 89♥, 90♥, 91♥, 92♥, 93♥, 94♥, 95♥, 96♥, 97♥, 98♥, 99♥, 100♥.

Opening lead: Nine of ♣.

First as easy as you might think for the defenders to take the tricks that are their due. First, they do not know how many fast tricks are available. Secondly, the fact that each defender sees only half the defensive resources makes it difficult for them to ascertain where those tricks are available. Thirdly, a skilled declarer might be able to force the defenders to select a line before much of the hand is revealed. Here's an example of a fine effort by South to hoodwink the opponents. According to the Law of Total

Harding arrives for Olympics

OSLO (R) — A cold but smiling Tonya Harding arrived in Norway Wednesday, a step closer to her dream of Olympic glory and to competing against her knee-clubbed rival Nancy Kerrigan.

Harding — the last U.S. team member to arrive for the Lillehammer Games — flew into Oslo's main Fornebu Airport from Copenhagen after a long-haul flight from the United States and was the last person off the plane.

"She was last to arrive in Albertville, too," one U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) official said. "It's a kind of debutante entrance."

Harding finished fourth at those games two years ago,

having chosen to train away from the Olympics until the last moment.

This time she was cleared to skate only last weekend after the USOC reached a deal with lawyers. She dropped a \$25 million lawsuit and will compete despite investigations into her possible role in the Jan. 6 attack on Kerrigan.

Harding denies being involved.

Wrapped in a long brown coat against the bitter cold and with a bag on each shoulder, Harding paused to wave and smile at photographers in Oslo as a U.S. official escorted her down a side stairway off the plane and into a car waiting on the tarmac.

The vehicle then drove off with an unmarked police car as escort.

Frantic photographers scurried from one exit to the other trying to catch a picture.

One U.S. team source said she was heading straight for Hamar, the skating venue south of Lillehammer.

The USOC declined to comment on her plans but said she would need to get accredited and settle into the athletes' village in Hamar.

Kerrigan, bronze medalist in Albertville, arrived in Norway last week and is training in Hamar for the women's singles figure skating in a week's time.

Michael Jordan struggles at start of baseball career

SARASOTA, Florida (AFP) — Michael Jordan struggled at the plate here Tuesday during his first training workout since coming out of retirement from basketball to try baseball.

Jordan made about 100 swings from two Chicago White Sox batting practice pitchers, knocking most of them into the dirt near home plate or into the surrounding batting cage.

"I have to work on my hitting every day," Jordan said. "I have improved, I can feel it. It's just a matter of getting the fundamentals down. 'I won't be a sideshow for anybody.'"

Jordan said. "I don't want to deteriorate the game. I'm going to play my best. If my skills aren't good enough to be here, then I don't want to be here."

Jordan, a seven-time National Basketball Association (NBA) scoring champion, retired in October after leading the Chicago Bulls to three straight league titles. Four months later, he signed a contract to play for the White Sox.

The opening day of spring practice for Jordan also included running exercises and fielding work on fly and ground balls.

"It's good being outside," Jordan said. "It's different than being in a gym or batting cage."

Jordan will not face full-speed pitches for another week. He is expected to play in Chicago's intersquad game March 3, one day before the White Sox play their exhibition opener against Texas.

Fans are not allowed at practices until Thursday, Jordan's 31st birthday. But some spectators knelt beneath outfield advertising signs Tuesday and used binoculars to catch a glimpse of Jordan, a baseball rookie outfielder who will wear number 45.

Seattle slam 76ers for fifth consecutive victory

SEATTLE (R) — Ricky Pierce scored 11 of his 17 points in the second quarter to lead seven players in double figures as the Seattle SuperSonics raced past the Philadelphia 76ers, 133-105 late Tuesday, for their fifth straight victory.

Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 13 rebounds, Kendall Gill scored 19 points and Detlef Schrempf added 18 for the Sonics, who established a season high for points scored and have the league's best record at 36-10.

Seattle led 66-45 at halftime and opened a 94-58 lead on a tip-in by Kemp with three minutes left in the third quarter.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 28 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists to lift the Houston Rockets to a 103-99 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Dominique Wilkins scored 26 points for the Hawks, who were outscored 26-14 in the third period and trailed throughout the fourth quarter.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 10 of his 34 points in a key second-quarter run to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their franchise-record tying 10th straight win, a 109-100 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Reggie Miller scored 23 for the Pacers, who had a seven-game winning streak come to an end.

San Antonio held a 44-36 lead with 5:00 left in the second period before going on a 14-0 run to close out the half and grab a 16-point lead heading into the break.

At New Jersey, Kenny

Anderson scored 29 points and Derrick Coleman had 23 points and 16 rebounds to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 103-83 rout over the New York Knicks.

The Nets improved to 3-0 against the Knicks this season. In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 13 of his 36 points in the final 8:17 of the fourth quarter to lead the Orlando Magic to a 102-92 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Sherman Douglas hit a jumper with 8:17 remaining to give Boston an 82-72 lead.

At Golden State, Billy Owens scored a season-high 29 points and keyed a third-quarter surge to lift the Golden State Warriors to a 123-113 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Latrell Sprewell, Chris Webber and Chris Gailing added 17 points each for the Warriors, who beat the Kings for the third time in as many games this season.

In Cleveland, Gerald Wilkins scored 27 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers topped the Denver Nuggets, 111-99.

Denver held a 24-23 lead with 2:45 remaining in the first quarter, when Cleveland went on an 11-2 run to close the period and take a 34-26 lead.

Wilkins hit a pair of three-pointers and Mark Price added another to spark the run.

Brad Daugherty collected 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists as the Cavaliers won their third straight home game.

At Minnesota, Christian Laettner collected 23 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 97-90 victory.

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Seles return ruled out this year

PARIS (R) — Monica Seles will not be returning to tennis this year, her representatives International Management Group (IMG) said Wednesday.

"She is not entered in any tournaments this year and she does not know when she will be able to return," IMG said in a statement.

IMG, who issued their statement during the women's indoor French Open championship in Paris, said: "There are still emotional issues resulting from the stabbing attack in Germany on April 30 and Monica will not be ready to play tennis again in the near future."

The Yugoslav-born former world number one was stabbed in the back by a spectator during a match at the Hamburg tournament last year. She has not played since and dropped out of the world rankings Monday.

LILLEHAMMER WINTER OLYMPICS
Koss sets speedskating mark

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Norwegian speedskater Johann Olav Koss measured triumph Wednesday by the fraction for a second he shaved off the world record in the men's 1,500. For Tonya Harding, it was a measure of victory just to arrive at the Lillehammer Games (see separate story).

Thanks to Koss, who won his second gold of the games, and freestyle skier Stine Lise Hattestad, host Norway kept pace with the leading Russians in the Lillehammer medals race.

Italian luger Gerda Weissensteiner and Canadian moguls specialist Jean-Luc Brassard also struck gold on the fifth day of the games.

The 25-year-old Koss, who broke his own world record in the 5,000 three days ago, clocked one minute, 51.29 seconds in Wednesday's 1,500 at Hamar's Viking hall. That broke the 1:51.60 mark rival Rintje Ritsma of the Netherlands set at the European championships at the same Hamar oval last month. Ritsma only managed 1:51.99 Wednesday in taking silver. Fellow Dutchman Falko Zandstra won bronze.

"The last two laps made a difference, but I didn't think this could happen," said Koss, who was cheered on by a crowd of 12,000 in a hall shaped like an upside-down Viking ship.

Weissensteiner, a farmer's daughter from the Tyrolean Alps, captured Italy's second gold medal of the games, dominating all four runs of the women's luge.

Brassard and Hattestad unseated the reigning Olympic champions to win the men's

and women's freestyle-skiing moguls events.

Hattestad, 27, who has concentrated on improving her jumps since winning a moguls bronze at Albertville in 1992, edged Liz McIntyre of the United States, with a faster time down the bumpy Kanthaugen course and the best points total of 25.97. McIntyre, who finished first in Tuesday's qualifying round, won silver, and Russia's Elizaveta Kojevnikova, the 1992 silver medalist, had to settle for the bronze.

Defending champion Donna Weinbrecht of the United States finished only seventh.

In earning Canada's first gold medal of the games, Brassard executed two perfect jumps and received maximum scores of 5.00 from four of the style judges. He wound up with 27.24 points to 26.90 for second-place finisher Sergei Shoupletsov of Russia. Although he was faster over the dips and bump, defending champion Edgar Grosjeon of France had to settle for bronze with 26.64 points.

Hattestad and Koss' golds on Wednesday gave the Norwegians a total of seven medals — four gold and three silver. Their gold tally was one more than the Russians' total.

The 25-year-old Weissensteiner's victory on the Hunderfossen luge chute strengthened Italy's hold on third place, giving it five medals overall.

Russia surged into first place Tuesday with a 1-2 finish in the pairs figure skating, a cross-country gold and a surprise silver in Alpine skiing. Thanks to Wednesday's silver and bronze in moguls, the Russians built up their medals total to

10, including three gold and five silvers.

Weissensteiner, who set a luge track record on her first run Tuesday, finished the fourth run Wednesday with a combined time of 3 minutes, 15.517 seconds. Germany's Susi Erdmann took silver of 3 minutes, 15.517 seconds. Germany's Susi Erdmann took silver three-quarters of a second off the pace. Andrea Tagwerker of Austria won bronze.

"Super," is how Edmann described the winner's runs.

"I was a little bit scared going down the fourth run because the ice was so treacherous," Weissensteiner said.

Samaranch visits Sarajevo

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch visited Sarajevo Wednesday to show solidarity with the shattered city that hosted the Winter Olympics a decade ago.

Samaranch arrived in the Bosnian capital later than planned from Split, Croatia, after heavy snow and ice had to be cleared from the runway at Sarajevo airport. International Olympic Committee (IOC) Vice President Kevan Gosper said.

Samaranch, who arrived in Split Tuesday from Lillehammer, had long planned a return to Sarajevo to show the Olympic movement's solidarity with the besieged Bosnian capital and renew calls for an "olympic truce."

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Lebanon stands up to its right of resistance despite U.S. concern

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The government on Wednesday defended the anti-Israeli resistance in southern Lebanon, despite U.S. concern for the Middle East peace talks and a warning of Israeli retaliation.

"Israel is to blame for the escalation," Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul said after a cabinet meeting.

"As long as the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon continued, we cannot forbid anyone from fighting this occupation. The (peace) negotiations will continue, as will the anti-Israeli resistance," he told journalists.

In the latest fighting, Israeli forces and fighters of the fundamentalist group Hizbollah traded fire with anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons after an ambush by the guerrillas, security sources said.

With the peace talks under way in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on Lebanon to calm things down, officials in Beirut said.

The government said it received a letter from Mr. Christopher delivered by its ambassador Mark Hambley on Monday.

Security sources, meanwhile, said that Hizbollah guerrillas who killed four Israeli soldiers on Feb. 7 launched three more attacks

against Israel's occupation zone in the south.

The Christopher letter, addressed to Foreign Minister Faris Bouez and quoted in a government statement, urged restraint.

"The continuation of military escalation can never be accepted because it would lead to torpedoing the peace process," it said.

The letter said the "very dangerous" fighting was contradictory to the climate of a summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva last month.

Israel warned, in the message sent via Mr. Christopher, that it would retaliate unless Lebanon stopped Hizbollah's attacks.

The group, whose arms transit through Syria, stepped up its attacks following an Israeli air raid on Tuesday that killed one of its guerrillas and wounded two.

Both sides were on alert Wednesday, the second anniversary of the killing of former Hizbollah chief Abbas Musawi in an Israeli helicopter strike.

Israeli troops were sent in as reinforcements after Hizbollah fighters attacked a patrol of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) with automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets

inside Israel's "security zone."

Guerrillas also fired five Katyusha rockets and fought artillery battles with the SLA. Palestinian dissidents opposed to the Sept. 13 autonomy accord with Israel claimed the rocket attacks, in a telephone call to AFP in Amman.

At least one SLA militiaman was wounded in the ambush in the western sector of the zone, an Israeli military spokesman said. The two sides then exchanged about 50 rounds of artillery fire.

Security sources said an armoured Israeli ground force supported by helicopter gunships punched out from the occupied enclave in South Lebanon and searched fields in pursuit of ambushers.

Residents of nearby front-line villages, fearing a major Israeli thrust, fled northwards to safer areas, said the sources.

The Israeli force retreated after a 90-minute operation that security sources said left no casualties on the 10th straight day of clashes in South Lebanon. But Hizbollah claimed 12 casualties among the SLA militia in the ambush.

Israeli Cobra gunships went into action for the first time this month, strafing suspected infiltration trails in the foothills of Mount Hermon in south-eastern Lebanon, the security sources said.

Israeli court convicts banks, executives in bourse collapse

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a watershed case in Israel's attempts to make itself a player in world financial markets, the country's leading banks and nine executives were convicted Wednesday of criminal responsibility for a 1983 stock market crash.

The four-year trial put Israel's top four banks and their former executives into the dock. It tested the accountability for the banking industry, which suffered a sharp loss of credibility after the government paid over \$7 billion to bail out thousands of insolvent investors.

Israel has been trying to present the Tel Aviv stock exchange as a viable option for international investors, noting that with over 600 companies traded, it has more offerings than every market in Europe except London. But the volume of trading is about average for Europe at \$130 million daily.

"You bankers felt that you were a powerful force and you knew that the country could not exist without a banking system," Judge Miriam Naor said in a two-hour readout of the verdict.

"Public confidence is a bank's most important asset," Mr. Naor said. "Once a bank is at risk... it raises fears about its future ability to keep commitments."

She said the bankers knew

"the whole affair would be thrown to the government and gentlemen, that is criminal."

The verdict comes at a time when the stock market is again rocked by scandal, with two brokers and a leading portfolio manager under investigation for stock manipulation.

The defendants Wednesday included four key banks — Leumi, Hapoalim, Discount and Mizrahi — plus about a dozen executives, all forced out of their jobs after the crash.

The four banks, a holding company and six executives were convicted of violating a 1977 law against selling shares on false pretences. Two of the banks and some executives were also convicted of similar charges of securities fraud.

They all face sentences of up to five years in prison and also multi-million dollar fines.

Two accountants were acquitted Wednesday in addition to another who has since died. Other executives were acquitted of some charges because the statute of limitations ran out.

A sentencing date should be set Feb. 22.

Former Bank Leumi Chairman Ernst Japhet, who fled to the United States in 1987 when his huge severance package created an uproar, returned to Israel last month after the government requested his extradition. He will be tried separately.

3 sentenced to death in Mubarak murder plot

CAIRO (Agencies) — A military court on Wednesday sentenced two soldiers and a civilian to death for a failed extremist plot to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak, a source in the military judiciary said.

Guilty verdicts and sentences were handed down after a trial that began in January at the Sidi Barrani military base in northern Egypt, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Three other defendants, all soldiers, received life sentences.

The government has made no official announcement about the foiled attempt or the trial since plots against Mr. Mubarak are not normally made public. Any connection between the military and extremists also is a touchy subject.

Asked Wednesday about a verdict in the case, Colonel Nabil Al Gazar at the military public relations office in Cairo said he had no information, adding it was a "sensitive" subject.

The Al Shaab newspaper of the opposition Labour Party reported last week that security authorities headed off a plot to mine the airport at Sidi Barrani before Mr. Mubarak stopped there in November.

Military sources told the Associated Press last week that Mr. Mubarak's name was not on the charge sheet. It referred to the crime as "an assassination attempt against an important figure visiting Sidi Barrani."

A lieutenant and an army conscript sentenced to death will face a firing squad as Egyptian military custom, the source said. He said no date was set but it will probably be in mid-March after "Eid Al Fitr."

The civilian who received the death sentence is at large.

An Egyptian was slightly injured Wednesday when an explosive device he was carrying in his bag on a public bus went off, security sources said.

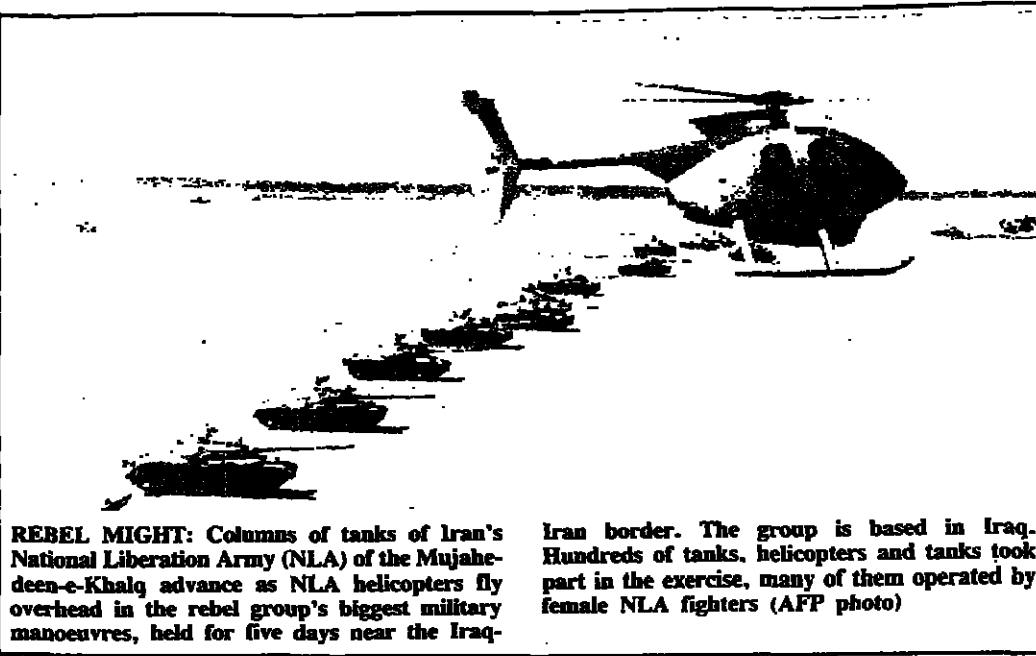
None of the other passengers was hurt when the device exploded as the bus made its way through old Cairo, they said.

Police arrested the man, Essam Ahmad Abu Al Ala, and are questioning him to determine if he has militant connections.

A small timebomb exploded outside an Egyptian-Kuwaiti bank in Cairo on Tuesday evening, breaking the windows of the bank and of two cars parked nearby, no one was hurt.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry published photographs of wanted militants on Wednesday and pledged rewards for citizens who gave information on them.

The militants' photographs were displayed on the front page of the semi-official Al Akhbar newspaper.



REBEL MIGHT: Columns of tanks of Iran's National Liberation Army (NLA) of the Mujahideen-Khalq advance as NLA helicopters fly overhead in the rebel group's biggest military manoeuvres, held for five days near the Iraq

border. The group is based in Iraq. Hundreds of tanks, helicopters and tanks took part in the exercise, many of them operated by female NLA fighters (AFP photo)

Syria ready to sign treaty without waiting for others, Rabin claims

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria is prepared in principle to sign a peace treaty with Israel regardless of progress made by the other Arab parties in the ongoing bilateral peace negotiations, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee on Tuesday.

Wednesday's English-language Jerusalem Post said Mr. Rabin, who made the comment to the foreign affairs and defence committee of the Knesset, did not say how he knew of the Syrian willingness.

"I have reason to assume that if we reach a peace treaty with Syria, it will be signed (without waiting for other treaties), but I will not tell you the basis for my assessment," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by the Post.

Mr. Rabin said that if he revealed further details, he would be helping the "saboteurs of peace," the Post said.

In the same meeting, Mr. Rabin accused Syrian President Hafez Al Assad of not doing enough to convince Israelis that he wants peace even though an Israeli proposal to hold a referendum on the Golan Heights was made to encourage the Syrian leader to do so.

"Syria and its leaders are not

doing enough to demonstrate their goodwill in the peace process," Mr. Rabin told the Knesset committee, according to the Post.

"It is vital to explain to the (Israeli) nation, not just the government, that the other nation wants peace... I decided to hold a referendum to signal to the Syrians that the problem is not only to persuade me that, but the Israeli people."

Mr. Rabin said he was "distressed about this matter because I feel Syria is closed to any (gestures) and this is not the way to express a desire for peace."

In an interview with Israel Television afterwards, Mr. Rabin said there were many things Mr. Assad could do short of visiting occupied Jerusalem as Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had done in 1977.

As an example of Mr. Assad's unwillingness to demonstrate goodwill, Mr. Rabin described how Democratic Arab Party Deputy Abdul Wahab Darawshe had asked the Syrian president for permission to lead a delegation of Israeli Arabs on a condolence visit after the death of Mr. Assad's son, Basel.

"Darawshe was turned down," said Mr. Rabin. "I think that if the Syrian government had approved, it would have been some sort of expression of the change in attitude towards Israelis, even if

the ones involved here were not Jews. They are, nevertheless, Israelis."

Syrian media Wednesday stepped up a volley of rhetoric against Israeli negotiating positions despite recent U.S. calls to tone it down for the sake of the Middle East peace process.

The new wave of media invective ended a brief respite following the Jan. 16 meeting between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva.

Mr. Assad promised Mr. Clinton to do his part to reach "a peace of the brave" with Israel.

Following Tuesday's resumption of Syrian-Israeli peace talks in Washington, the Tishrin daily accused Israel of being "adamant and evasive" and "striving to make the peace talks boring and futile."

Israel is adopting the policy of circumvention to frustrate all endeavours aiming to put the peace process back on track," the newspaper said.

The latest offensive by the Syrian media, which act as a government mouthpiece, came in response to an Israeli proposal to raise the level of Syrian-Israeli contacts with a summit between Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin.

Damascus Radio responded last Saturday that the proposal was "no more than a manoeuvre and pretext to indulge the talks in a futile circle and distance them from peace."

Palestinian veterans seek recognition

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Old Palestinian guerrillas who fought against Israel have joined together under a veteran's association in a bid to improve living standards and win recognition for their sacrifices.

"While the majority of our people were trying to earn a living and build a future under occupation, we were fighting for their honour," said 51-year-old Mohammad Al Gazzawi, founder of the Association of Palestinian Veterans.

"Today we live in deplorable conditions. When I saw the sorry state in which my brothers were living I decided last November to form an association."

He has already recruited 1,300 members, opened offices in Gaza and the West Bank town of Hebron and contacted veterans' groups in Algeria, Canada, Egypt, Germany, and Sweden.

Mr. Gazzawi, who has a target membership figure of 7,000, said he expected to sign up Chairman Yasser Arafat shortly and considers his pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Members must be over 30, have taken up arms against Israel before the intifada began in December 1987 and be above suspicion of collaborating with the authorities.

The association aims to find members a job, a house and ensure social assistance and in return for \$15 a year provides an olive green uniform.

Diab Jumaa Al Awur is content at the age of 75 to have rediscovered the comradeship.

He was sentenced to 35 years as an Egyptian spy in 1959 and released in a 1967 prisoner swap. "My son is dead and my daughter-in-law who looks after me," he said. "I have found my brothers in arms again here in the association."

At the age of 24, Mr. Gazzawi joined the paramilitary Palestinian National Guard set up by Egypt to maintain order before Israel seized Gaza.

North Korea celebrates 'dear leader's' birthday

SEOUL (R) — North Korea's leader-in-waiting celebrated his 52nd birthday Wednesday with little sign yet that he was in line for the ultimate power — a final transfer of power from his aged father.

North Korea's state-controlled media issued paeans of praise for "dear leader" Kim Jong-Il, the reclusive figure who stands in the shadow of his father Kim Il-Sung, leader of the Stalinist state since its turbulent birth in 1948.

"The whole nation is seething with a festive mood to meet the auspicious day," said the Korea Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo. Recent visitors to Pyongyang interviewed in Beijing said state and Communist flags had been hoisted for the celebration, a national holiday. Posters depicting the younger Kim's bespectacled, pudgy face and his birth date appeared on Kim Il-Sung Square and on prominent buildings in the centre of the capital, they said. But analysts noted that the celebrations were more low-key than in previous years. Although his succession was still on course, they said it was unlikely that any major change in Mr. Jong-Il's status was imminent.

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The association aims to find members a job, a house and ensure social assistance and in return for \$15 a year provides an olive green uniform.

Diab Jumaa Al Awur is content at the age of 75 to have rediscovered the comradeship.

He was sentenced to 35 years as an Egyptian spy in 1959 and released in a 1967 prisoner swap. "My son is dead and my daughter-in-law who looks after me," he said. "I have found my brothers in arms again here in the association."

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Tax law moved to House panel

(Continued from page 1)

economy if the talks fail.

"Though there are many reservations (on the law, which) we wished was presented as part of a comprehensive tax reform programme," said Mr. Abdul Ragheb, "I propose the law be referred to the Judicial Committee," where the government's view will be heard and economic experts interviewed on the law.

Mr. Abdul Ragheb asserted that the draft law will be discussed in an objective manner and "without pre-determined stands."

Deputy Jamal Sarairoh said the previous government managed to postpone the tax and "if the House rejects the law nobody can force us to introduce it."

Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti pointed out that the consumption tax allows the government to tax new items through legislation issued by the Cabinet, saying that discussion of the draft law gives an opportunity to control the goods and services covered by the law.

"The government now has a flexible and dangerous law, the consumption tax, through which it can impose new taxes and at the rates it wants," Mr. Kabariti, a member of the Financial Committee, told the Jordan Times.

"It is possible that the exclusion of services from the taxable items in the consumption tax is what prompted the gov-

ernment to introduce the sales tax law which includes goods and services," he said.

But he said the opportunity was present now to limit the items that would be taxed by introducing the necessary and "appropriate" amendments to the new law and "cancelling the consumption tax law which is a sword in the hands of the government which uses it whenever it wants."

Twenty-seven out of 73 deputies present voted in favour of rejecting the draft law when the issue was put to vote.

During its session, the House set next Wednesday as a date for holding a general discussion of the agricultural situation in the country and the policies of the Ministry of Supply.

Election deputies requested the general discussion but the House agreed that the government report on it will be referred to the Agriculture Committee before deputies respond to it.

Thirty-one deputies requested the general discussion of the policies of the Ministry of Supply which came under fire from lawmakers during the discussion of the food and medicine situation earlier this month.

The House also approved the decision of a special committee to reject the contestation of the Nov. 8 polls in Karak Governorate.

The House also listened to minister's answers to deputies' questions on a number of social and economic local issues.

Queen Elizabeth to visit Russia to seal relations

NIZHNY-NOVGOROD, Russia (Agencies) — British Premier John Major travelled here Wednesday for a close-up look at economic reform and announced that Queen Elizabeth II had agreed to accept a long-standing invitation to visit Russia later this year.

Officials travelling with Mr. Major said the queen's visit — the first by a British monarch since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution — had been agreed during talks Tuesday at the Kremlin between the British Prime Minister and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Kremlin also released a statement confirming that the British sovereign had accepted an invitation from Mr. Yeltsin for an official visit to Russia later this year and both countries said exact dates for the trip would be determined later.

"The queen will be a very popular visitor to Russia, very popular," Mr. Major said, adding that the decision to

accept Mr. Yeltsin's invitation now seemed "appropriate" following the democratic legislative elections held last December.

He said the visit had been considered for the past several years.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said the queen had made no final decision, but that appeared to be a formality. According to tradition, she makes overseas visits on the prime minister's advice. Mr. Major said he would recommend a Russian visit, possibly in the fall.

A royal visit would "set the seal on the new partnership developing between the United Kingdom and President Yeltsin's democratic government," he said.

Mr. Major, accompanied by his wife, Norma, and Russian Economics Minister Alexander Shokhin, arrived in Nizhny-Novgorod from Moscow following a formal departure ceremony hosted by Mr. Yeltsin at the Kremlin.

Saudis to buy \$6 b worth of U.S. aircraft

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to replace its entire commercial aircraft fleet with U.S.-built planes, turning aside bids from the European consortium Airbus Industrie, President Bill Clinton announced Wednesday.

The \$6 billion deal is for purchase of 50 planes built by Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp., proving, Mr. Clinton said at the White House, "that we can compete."

He did not say how many planes each company would provide.

Airbus, a joint venture of Britain, France, and Germany, also sought the huge contract. But the Saudis chose their principal arms supplier and the country that organised defence of the Saudi oilfields from Iraq in 1990.

Besides the two big U.S. manufacturers, the deal will benefit firms across the country that make jet engines and other parts of the planes. Mr.

Clinton said it would create tens of thousands of jobs.

Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar, himself a pilot, stood alongside Mr. Clinton in the White House for the announcement, along with U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and chairman Frank Shrontz of Boeing and John McDonnell of McDonnell Douglas.

The U.S. aerospace industry is in the grips of hard times with thousands of jobs lost.

Mr. Brown said the sale to Saudi Arabia marked the formation of a "real partnership."

Mr. Clinton said the United States worked hard to conclude the sale and would keep pushing for more business abroad.

In Seattle, Boeing spokesman Mark Hooper said the long-awaited Saudi order is "certainly encouraging." He said the company still has to work out exactly how many Boeing planes the Saudis want.

Aideed: Peace will return to Somalia

NAIROBI (AFP) — Somali factional leader Mohammad Farah Aideed has said that peace will return to Somalia after U.S. and other Western troops withdraw next month, despite weekend clashes that allegedly killed 60 people.

Speaking to reporters after a dinner he hosted at a luxury Nairobi hotel for more than 100 Somalis on Tuesday, General Aideed said: "I believe that peace will prevail after the foreign forces leave Somalia in March."

"I'm sure that no fighting between factions will take place," said Gen. Aideed, speaking after signing a treaty between his Somali National Alliance (SNA) and a previously unknown group called the Somali Peace-Loving Union, which claims to represent a 100,000-strong coastal community from the port of Brava.

"There are some foreign forces who are waging propaganda against the Somali people, saying that when the fore-

ign troops leave in March there will be war or fighting amongst Somalis. I believe this is only propaganda," said Gen. Aideed in his first remarks to western journalists since he arrived here in January.

He was expected to go to Eritrea for talks with President Issais Afeworki next week, according to his foreign affairs advisor, Mohammad Awale.

Since the guerrilla leader forced the United States to abandon Somalia left Mogadishu for U.N.-sponsored peace talks with rival factions in Addis Ababa in December, he has seized the diplomatic initiative, meeting the presidents of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Gen. Aideed, flanked by his ally Omar Jess, did not comment on reports that Colonel Jess's fighters were involved in clashes with the forces of Mohammad Said Hersi "Morgan," son-in-law of ousted ruler Mohammad Siad Barre, in

the southern port city of Kismayo. According to a spokesman for Gen. Aideed's enemy, self-styled interim president Ali Mahdi Mohammad, 60 people were killed.

But Mr. Awale, one of Aideed's aides freed from U.N. detention last month, said an SNA committee was investigating the bloodshed. "It's not in our interests to have fighting in Kismayo," he said.

Gen. Aideed called for the formation of a democratic government in Somalia and said his talks with rival faction leaders had shown "common views on peace and reconciliation."

Gen. Aideed's faction opposes U.N.-sponsored local councils formed in Somalia, but he said a transitional government could still be formed under U.N.-brokered agreements if the world body "does not impose any action on us" and allowed Somalis "to handle their own problems."

He said foreign troops

should quit Somalia but urged U.N. aid agencies to stay and help a people broken by famine and civil war.

He condemned the kidnappings of foreigners, five of whom have